BE PREPARED. Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay with gas mask and in Boy Scout uniform prepares to enter "ground zero" of the Glorietta 2 explosion site on Wednesday. ERIK ARAZAS

BUSINESS / B1

Businessmen remain upbeat on economy

METRO/ A17

Devanadera reverses prosecutor's recommendation, orders filing of murder charges vs Luis Gonzalez

NEWS / A2

Dr. Mita Pardo de Tavera; 87

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Thursday, October 25, 2007 ★★ 8 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 319 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

ZTE inquiry resumes; Cabinet men not going

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Dona Pazzibugan and Allison W. Lopez

MALACAÑANG HAS BARRED CABINET OFficials and government executives from appearing further in the Senate probe of the National Broadband Network (NBN) project, citing President Macapagal-Arroyo's cancellation of the $329-million contract

ZTE PROBE/ A4

JAIME AYALA: Nothing out of the ordinary. REM ZAMORA

SUPT. Fennimore Jaudian stands near the entrance to the Glorietta 2 basement where the explosion is believed to have originated.

SPD CHIEF TICMAN shows list of technical experts helping investigate the Glorietta 2 blast.

PNP CHIEF Razon explains explosion to INQUIRER editors on Wednesday.

JIM GUIDO PUNZALAN

Ayala blasts PNP probe

Mall owner questions gas explosion theory

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson and DJ Yap

"NOTHING EXTRAORDINARY" WAS HOW AYALA Land Inc. (ALI), operator of the Glorietta shopping complex in Makati City, yesterday described the condition of the Glorietta 2 (G2) basement before the Oct. 19 explosion that killed 11 people and injured more than 100.

ALI president Jaime Ayala said at a press conference that this was what Glorietta maintenance personnel had reported to the company prior to the blast, based on an initial report provided by the Ayala Group's "technical team" on Tuesday night.

He said the team was composed of engineers, chemical experts, consultants and experts on fire and safety.

Asked whether the information from ALI's technical team had refuted a police finding that leaned toward an accidental gas explosion in the G2 basement, Ayala said: "At this point, we are providing the facts so that the authorities can finish their report. At this point, we would like to wait until we see the report so we can actually address the specific conclusions that the authorities have made."

The Philippine National Police is sticking to its gas explosion theory.

At a meeting with INQUIRER reporters and editors yesterday afternoon, PNP Director General Avelino Razon said the investigation was pointing to an ignition of dangerous gases accumulating in the G2 basement.

AYALAS/ A8

PAMPANGA Gov. Ed Panlilio: I hope they're telling the truth

Eastern Samar Gov. Ben Evardone and Palawan Gov. Joel Reyes: It's money of LPP, not Malacañang..

Among Ed: Why did it take 13 days to reveal cash source?

By Inquirer staff

PAMPANGA GOV. EDDIE Panlilio yesterday expressed skepticism over claims that the P500,000 he and Bulacan Gov. Joselito Mendoza each received in Malacañang on Oct. 11 had come from the League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP).

"It came as a surprise," Panlilio said of the statements by Eastern Samar Gov. Ben Evardone, the LPP secretary, and Palawan Gov. Joel Reyes, LPP spokesperson, that the money was from the LPP's capability building program (CBP).

"Why is it only now that they are telling us that the money came from the CBP? It has taken them 13 days to reveal that,

AMONG ED/ A4

Where's our P500,000 cash? governors ask

By Inquirer staff

AT LEAST SEVEN GOVERNORS have neither heard of their league's "capacity-building program" (CBP) nor have they ever received money for such a program supposedly meant for neophyte governors.

Negros Occidental Gov. Joseph Marañon, a veteran politician now on his third term, said he wanted P500,000,

WHERE'S OUR/ A4

Opposition to Erap pardon gaining ground

By Jerome Aning, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Leila B. Salaverria and Jocelyn R. Uy

LAWYERS, MILITANTS AND anticrime crusaders—and at least one academic institution—have found common cause in opposing a presidential pardon for ousted President Joseph Estrada, a convicted plunderer.

A "mockery of justice" was how an alliance of lawyers' groups called the No Pardon for Erap Movement (NOPE) described President Macapagal-Arroyo's likelihood of granting clemency to Estrada.

"The pardon, if granted under the conditions dictated by Estrada, is a national insult to our country's honor. We appeal to ... [Ms Arroyo] not to allow this national shame to happen despite the politicians' pressure on her," said NOPE convenor Leonard de Vera of the Equal Justice for All Movement.

Malacañang yesterday said it would conduct a national survey to get the public pulse on the issue.

"Public opinion is a factor," said Ms Arroyo's legal adviser Sergio Apostol, who noted that with his appeal, Estrada had practically recognized her legitimacy.

On Monday, Estrada, 70, dropped his motion for reconsideration before the Sandiganbayan, which sentenced him to

OPPOSITION/ A8

SC receives first writ of amparo plea

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE MOTHERS OF TWO MISSing students of the University of the Philippines yesterday sought a writ of amparo (or protection) from the Supreme Court to order the military to free their daughters and the latter's companion.

Erlinda Cadapan and Concepcion Empeño, whose daughters Sherlyn Cadapan and Karen Empeño were purportedly kidnapped by the military along with farmer Manuel Merino in June 2006, were the first in the country to seek the writ of amparo, which provides remedies to any person whose right to life, liberty and security is violated and threatened.

The mothers asked for the release of their daughters and Merino from military custody if they are still alive, or for the military to disclose the location of their graves.

They also asked to be allowed to inspect nine places, including

SC RECEIVES/ A7

Pinoy on Time magazine's list of Green heroes

By TJ Burgonio

IN THE EYES OF FELLOW ENVIRONMENtalists, Von Hernandez is the kind who walks his talk, and gets the job done.

It's no surprise then that Hernandez has been named by Time magazine as among this year's "Heroes of the Environment," along with Al Gore, Mikhail Gorbachev and Prince Charles and other personalities.

The Greenpeace campaign director was cited for his relentless campaign against trading

PINOY/ A8

VON HERNANDEZ: He walks his talk. INQUIRER PHOTO

Esperon blinks, orders release of Jonas report

By Nikko Dizon and Leila B. Salaverria

GEN. HERMOGENES ESPERON JR., ARMED Forces of the Philippines chief of staff, yesterday announced he was releasing the military report on how the license plate of an impounded vehicle ended up being used by the kidnappers of activist Jonas Burgos.

"I thought that for the sake of upholding and the protection of human rights, I might as well declassify this since it has become one issue where [Edita] Burgos insisted that the military's report would help find Jonas," Esperon said.

Esperon's announcement was made as the

ESPERON/ A7

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2007

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will have cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over Southern Luzon which may trigger flashfloods and landslides.

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

COMPILED BY: SCHATZI QUODALA, PDI RESEARCH/10/24/07 SOURCE: PAGASA

More churches rap GMA

'Come clean,' Protestants urge President

By Beverly T. Natividad

THE COUNTRY'S EVANGELICAL churches have joined the call for President Macapagal-Arroyo to come clean on corruption allegations hounding Malacañang.

In a statement, the Philippine Council of Churches (PCEC)—the largest network of evangelical or Protestant Christian churches in the country—has asked President Arroyo and other political leaders to "respond to the clamor for transparency and address the nation on the various scandals" involving the administration.

Similar calls were made earlier by the Catholic Church, the Philippines for Jesus Movement (PJM) and the Jesus is Lord Movement (JIL).

The PCEC is a network of 65 denominations, 130 mission groups and over 20,000 local churches.

The PCEC reminded the country's leaders that their "righteousness" in handling the issues at hand will invite blessings to the country, while the opposite – wickedness – will surely court destruction.

The group said they were deeply concerned about all the talk of corruption involving government leaders. While the list of controversies has been getting longer, the public still has yet to receive any clear answer from those involved, they noted.

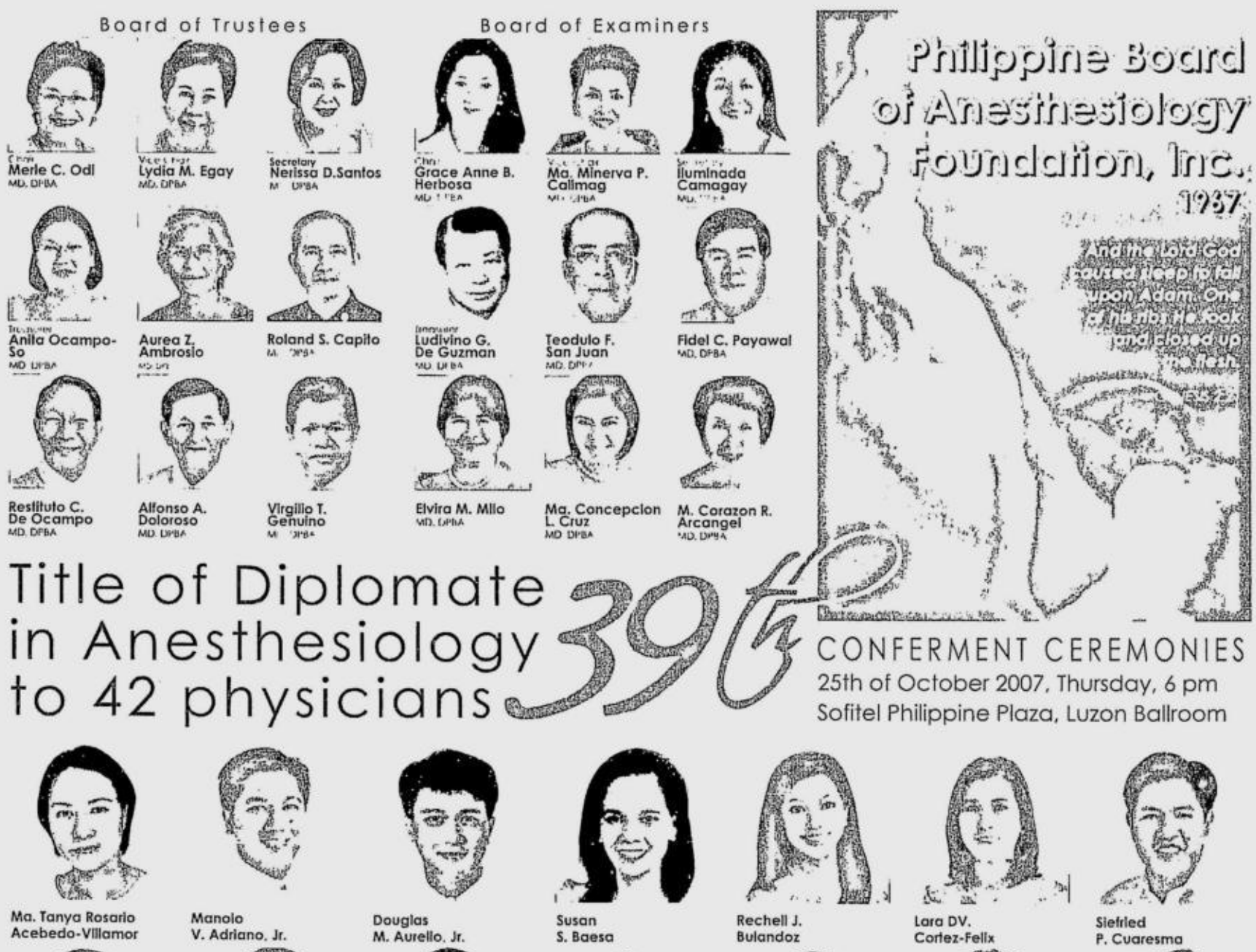
The PCEC also expressed its dismay at "the culture of corruption in the government" while the majority of the Filipinos are still living in poverty.

Evangelical church leaders also asked the Christian faithful to launch what they said was their most powerful answer to the country's problems – prayer.

WHAT'S INSIDE

SEARCH ON FOR Fil-Am victims of California fires /A9

OMBUDSMAN suspends 6 Customs men /A9



Esperon asks: Who planted bombs around Glorietta in '03?

ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF GEN. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. yesterday turned the tables on detained Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, saying it was the Magdalo group of junior officers, of which Trillanes was one of the leaders, which planted bombs at the Glorietta mall during the failed July 2003 coup.

Trillanes, who is being tried on coup d'etat charges for the attempted coup, also known as the Oakwood mutiny, has accused Esperon and National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales of masterminding what he claimed was the bombing of the Glorietta 2 mall on Oct. 19.

Esperon yesterday threw the accusation back at Trillanes, saying, "Who were the people in fact who planted bombs in that area in 2003?"

On July 27, 2003, a heavily armed Trillanes, with the self-styled Magdalo group of junior military officers and about 300 enlisted personnel, took over the Oakwood Premier hotel, since renamed Ascott, at the Glorietta complex in Makati's Ayala Center.

The group demanded the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo and top military and defense officials, accusing them of corruption. The stand-off lasted a little over 24 hours.

Esperon denied having had a hand in the explosion at the Glorietta 2 which police investigators now believe may not have been a bombing at all but an industrial accident arising from the accumulation of combustible gases in the mall's basement. Eleven people were killed and more than a hundred injured in the blast.

"We have forces that can do that (bombing). But why should we be doing that when we are supposed to be protecting the people? At least we have not shown intent to do harm," Esperon said.

The AFP chief said Trillanes was "mixing speculation with politics," and asked what basis the former Navy lieutenant, who was elected to the Senate in May, had for making the charge that Esperon and Gonzales had staged the explosion. *Nikko Dizon*

'Mamita,' doctor, activist, dies

FORMER SOCIAL WELFARE SECRETARY Mita Pardo de Tavera passed away last Tuesday after a battle with leukemia. She was 87.

Interment will be on Friday after a Mass at 1 p.m. at the Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park, Makati City.

Born to the illustrious Pardo de Tavera clan, "Mamita," as she was called by people close to her, devoted more than six decades of her life to serving the needy.

After graduating from the University of the Philippines in 1944 with a degree in medicine, Pardo de Tavera worked at the Philippine Tuberculosis Society. It was an eye-opener for her. In a 1986 interview with *Woman Today*, she said, "That's where I saw the imbalances, the wide disparity between the poor and the better-to-do."

Pardo de Tavera later became executive secretary of the PTS. She led the organization until 1974.

In the 1970s, she founded the Alay Kapwa Kilusang Pangkalusugan (Akap), an organization of health workers volunteering to teach preventive medicine to poor communities nationwide.

Akap has educated thousands of residents of impoverished communities on ailments like tuberculosis, diarrhea, colds, flu, dengue and malaria.

Even when she was past retirement age, Pardo de Tavera participated actively in street protests against Ferdinand Marcos' dictatorship.

After Marcos' ouster, she served as social welfare secretary in the Aquino administration.

She also became chair of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and president of the Philippine Cancer Society.

In 1991, the PCS launched the Hospice Home Care Program, which provided psycho-emotional and spiritual support to the terminally ill. Pardo de Tavera focused on cancer-stricken persons given short-term survival by their doctors.

For her "outstanding community services and medical ethics," the Philippine Medical Association gave Pardo de Tavera the Dr. Jose P. Rizal Award in 1994. *Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research*

Gov't makes it easier to own homes

SOME 40,000 FORECLOSED HOUSES are up for grabs at only 6-percent interest payable in 30 years in the second housing fair launched by the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC).

The fair, launched Tuesday at SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City, will run for six months.

Vice President Noli de Castro, HUDCC chair, said he was elated by the high turnout of buyers during the two days up to yesterday that the fair was held at Megamall.

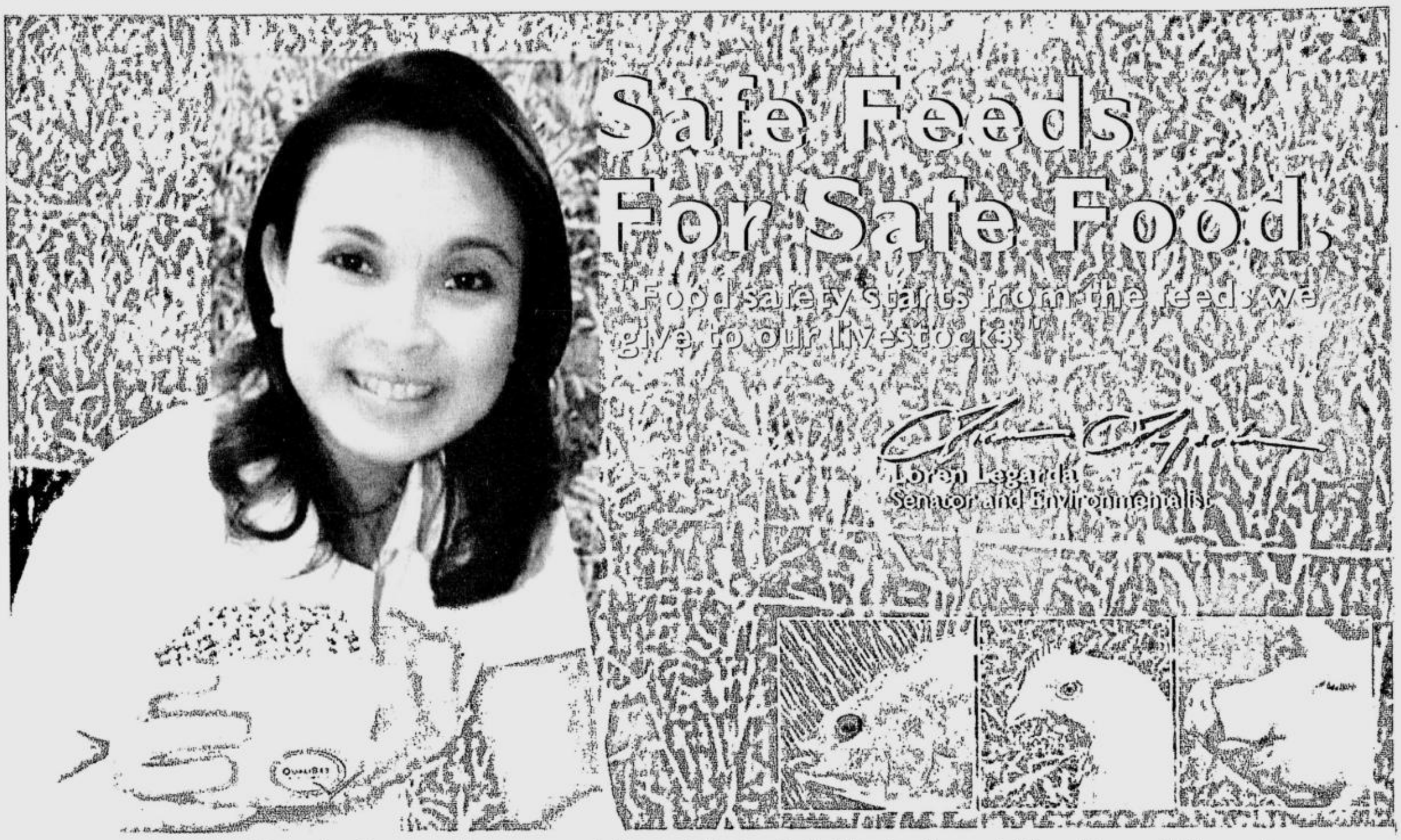
Starting today, interested buyers may go directly to the main offices of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Government Service Insurance System, Social Security System and key shelter agencies like the Home Mutual Development Fund or Pag-Ibig, National Home Mortgage Finance Corp. and Home Guarantee Corp. to pick out the homes they want.

"I hope that through this fair, many would find their dream houses," De Castro said.

He said that unlike commercial banks that charge as high as 10-percent interest, the participating agencies led by Pag-Ibig were only charging 6 percent for housing loans over 30 years to enable more Filipinos to acquire their own homes.

Furthermore, he said, this year's fair is open to workers in both the government and private sectors, including overseas Filipino workers (OFWs).

Cynthia D. Balana



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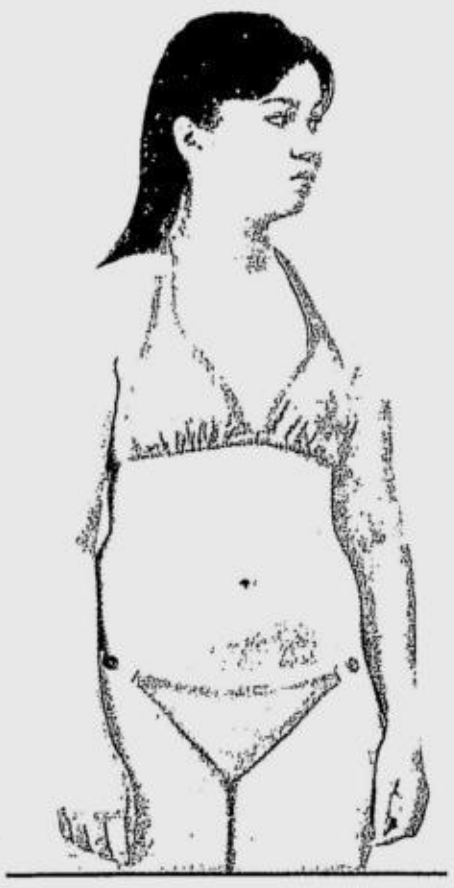

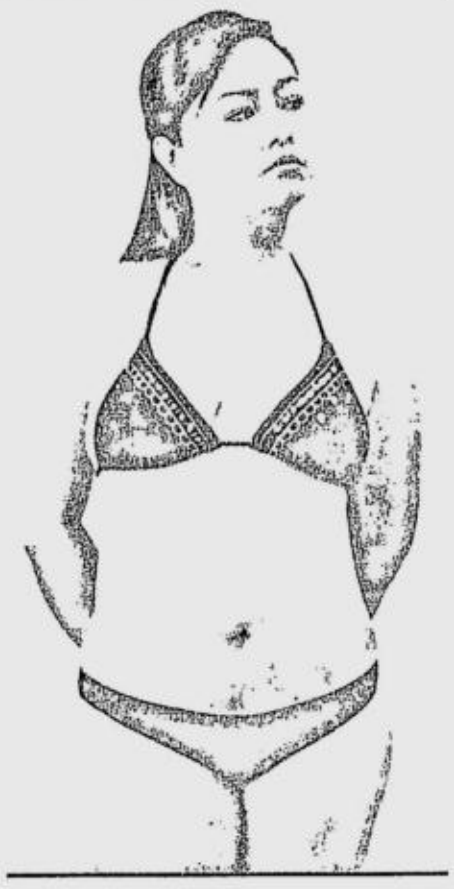

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Among Ed: Why did it take 13 days to reveal cash source?

From page A1

and they made denials in the last few days," Panlilio said.

Asked if he would follow Evardone's suggestion that he and Mendoza return to the LPP the money given to them, Panlilio said: "We will still have to study it." He said he would first consult with his supporters.

Panlilio said returning the money would not help him have, in Evardone's words, "peace of mind."

"In the first place, I am not at peace with the statement of Governor Evardone," said Panlilio, 53, a priest for 26 years before he won the May 14 gubernatorial election in Pampanga on a platform of a moral crusade and good governance.

"I just hope they're telling the truth," he said. "I hope they have a clear mind and clear conscience and tell what's true."

The LPP said it was the source of the cash gifts handed out in Malacañang, a day after Mendoza revealed what he described to be the "true account" of how the money, coming in two paper gift bags, got to him.

Palace denies disbursements

This came after Director Gloria Bundoc of the Palace finance office informed Panlilio and Mendoza in a letter on Oct. 19 that "the Office of the President has not released/disbursed any amount to your province..."

According to Mendoza, Evardone told him at the LPP meeting that money was to be given out for barangay and community projects.

Right after the meeting with President Macapagal-Arroyo, Mendoza said an LPP staff member ushered him into a room beside Heroes Hall.

Interior Undersecretary Austere Panadero, Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. official Edward Plaza and a man he did not know were present in the room, where a woman in white handed him the paper bag containing the money.

The cash handouts came amid the latest impeachment case against Ms Arroyo. Her critics said the handouts were an attempt to buy the loyalty of the more than 100 congressmen and 42 governors who went to separate meetings at the Palace that day.

New funding facility

In a phone interview, Reyes said money given to Mendoza and Panlilio came from a new P6-million funding window established on Sept. 6. It is still unknown to most LPP members because protocols to avail of it have yet to be established, said Reyes.

He explained that the money was withdrawn from LPP's bank account with Equitable PCI Bank through a board resolution in two withdrawals of P3 million each.

Reyes added that the LPP had a current cash position of about P20 million from annual dues paid by their members.

"We regard these funds as public funds and we are willing to have them audited externally, though we have an internal audit in place," Reyes said.

Asked why it took 13 days for the LPP to speak up, Reyes said he was in the United States accompanying his wife on a medical checkup when the controversy happened.

Malacañang declined comment on the LPP claim. Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the President now wanted the Ombudsman to investigate the alleged payoff instead of the Presidential Antigraft Commission.

"So, let us just allow the Ombudsman to appreciate and investigate the merit of the new testimony (of the LPP)," Bunye said.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson said the LPP officers would be summoned to his planned Senate inquiry and they would be liable if they were found covering up the alleged bribery in the Palace.

Culpability, Lacson added, could reach Malacañang since it was the venue for the payments.

Unthinkable

"It's unthinkable for the President of the republic not to know what's happening inside the Palace especially if it involves giving out P500,000 to governors and congressmen. Whether she knows it or not, that's equally bad," Lacson said.

Bank of Commerce officials, he said, may also be held responsible if they did not report to the Anti-Money Laundering Council the movement of millions of pesos, if indeed the LPP regularly transacted with the bank whose mark was reportedly found on the money bundles.

In the House of Representatives, Speaker Jose de Venecia said the source of the cash gifts would be the subject of an upcoming congressional inquiry.

"We are now pursuing great positive changes for the country," he said. "I don't want to get caught in claims and counterclaims in issues of bribery," De Venecia said. *With reports from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Allison W. Lopez; Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon; Redempto Anda, Inquirer Southern Luzon; Carla Gomez, Nestor Burgos Jr. and Joey A. Gabieta, Inquirer Visayas*

Where's our P500,000 cash? governors ask

From page A1

too, if the money given to governors in Malacañang two weeks ago came from the League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP).

Marañon, who was not at the Malacañang meeting where new governors were supposed to have been given the dole, said this was the first time he heard of the program.

But "if it is league money they gave out to the governors, we will request for our share," he said.

No longer around

Leyte Gov. Carlos Jericho Petilla, who is on his second term, said he attended the Oct. 11 meeting in Malacañang but he was no longer around for the handouts.

He said he was not aware that the LLP had a "capacity-building program" for new governors. He said he did not even know that it was to be discussed in that Palace gathering. All along, he thought it was about the coming barangay elections.

Petilla said he would have accepted the money as he could use it to finance some projects, such as funding for the provincial hospital.

Antique Gov. Salvacion Zaldivar-Perez, a member of the LPP's national executive board, said she also had not heard of the CBP but she believed that there was a fund for "alliance building."

She said this was similar to the "capacity-building program for new governors" mentioned by the LPP's spokesperson, Palawan Gov. Joel Reyes.

Solidarity building

Perez said that the program, approved Oct. 6 last year, included strengthening ties and building solidarity among provincial government officials. She said the program did not specify how much, how and when it will be given to the new governors.

Aklan Gov. Carlito Marquez, on his second term, said he was unaware of the program. "Maybe, it's because it's a new one," he said. Marquez also said he did not receive any LPP funds.

Capiz Gov. Victor Tanco Sr., a neophyte governor who failed to attend the Malacañang meeting, said he was not informed that he will be given P500,000 from the LPP.

Asked where the 79-member LPP got the money, Perez said the league had "excess" funds from annual contribution of its members.

"We only spend it for meetings so there is usually a significant amount left," said Perez.

She said Antique, a second-class province, contributes around P120,000 annually.

Perez said the LPP's financial assistance would be given to not more than 15 neophyte governors.

Not enough for all

But Tanco said he doubted if the league could afford to give P500,000 to each of the new governors.

He pointed out that Capiz, a third-class province, contributed around P80,000 annually.

"If all the members contribute an average of P100,000 annually, that totals to only P7.9 million," he said. Giving P500,000 to 15 new governors would add up to P7.5 million.

Tanco said he was willing to receive the money from the LPP only "if it's honest to goodness from the LPP to be used for projects and if there are no strings attached."

In the past, the league had given provinces financial assistance for calamities or for officials who go abroad to attend seminars or workshops, Marañon said.

However, he said, he has not heard of the league's capacity-building program. "Maybe, it is a new feature just being implemented," Marañon added.

Northern Samar Gov. Raul Daza, who said he did not attend the meeting, said: "It is up to their conscience. It is up to them to return it or not. And I don't like to judge them lest I will be judged," Daza said in a mobile phone interview.

Batangas Gov. Vilma Santos-Recto denied she got any cash gift in Malacañang, although she was present when it was distributed.

"Please don't drag me into this. I'm just a new governor. I don't want to be distracted from my job," the actress-turned-politician said. *With reports from Carla P. Gomez, Nestor Burgos Jr. and Joey A. Gabieta, Inquirer Visayas; Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Tagalog*

ZTE inquiry resumes; Cabinet men not going

From page A1

awarded to ZTE Corp. of China.

The Senate is scheduled to resume today its investigation of the controversial deal that was tainted by allegations of overpricing and offers of bribes.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said Solicitor General Agnes Devanadera would ask the Supreme Court in a letter to terminate the case against the NBN deal because it had been scrapped by the President.

Bunye said a similar letter would be sent to the Senate to explain why Cabinet officials would not be attending the hearing today.

"That's the logical conclusion (no government officials would attend the Senate probe) because in our view, whatever is our justification in the Supreme Court, that will also be the reason we will give to the Senate," Bunye said.

The President announced the scrapping of the ZTE deal on Oct. 2 while the Senate was investigating the deal to which the President's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, had been linked.

Bunye maintained that with no deal in place, both the Supreme Court and the Senate have no case to look into.

Iloilo Vice Gov. Rolex Suplico asked the tribunal in August to nullify the ZTE contract for being unconstitutional and to stop its implementation.

Amsterdam Holdings Inc. (AHI) also asked the Supreme Court to stop the deal's implementation. AHI is the Filipino firm that submitted an unsolicited proposal to undertake the NBN project at no cost to the government.

Acting on the petitions, the Supreme Court issued a temporary restraining order on the implementation of the project last month.

Teves, Neri abroad

Bunye said Finance Secretary Margarito Teves and Commission on Higher Education Chair Romulo Neri had written excuse letters to the Senate explaining their nonappearance. Both officials are abroad.

Communication Secretary Leandro Mendoza has also begged off from the hearing, citing a busy schedule. Trade Secretary Peter Favila, for his part, told the Senate he was ill.

Also invited to the Senate hearing today were Jose Miguel Arroyo, Communication Assistant Secretary Elmer A. Soneja, whistle-blower Jose "Joey" de Venecia III and newspaper columnist Jarius Bondoc.

As of yesterday afternoon, only De Venecia III and Bondoc had confirmed their attendance to the Senate blue ribbon committee, which leads the investigation.

Arroyo had sent word he would not attend the hearing upon the advice of his doctors who cautioned him against going into stressful situations while rehabilitating from his heart surgery.

Deposition

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan said he would ask the Senate blue ribbon committee to direct the Senate physician to look into Arroyo's real condition.

Pangilinan also said Arroyo should submit a deposition to answer De Venecia's accusation even if he was not physically present at the hearing.

De Venecia told the first Senate hearing on the ZTE deal on Sept. 18 that in mid-March the President's husband shoved a finger at him and told him to "back off" from the NBN project.

Presidential Chief Legal Counsel Sergio Apostol said Ms Arroyo's husband could not be forced to make a deposition on his encounter with De Venecia.

Foolish

"It's the same thing, whether oral or written, it will cause stress, so there is no need of forcing him to execute a statement or what," Apostol said.

Apostol said it would be foolish for the Senate to insist on its physician to check on the President's husband.

"He is not an accused. He's just being called as a resource person," Apostol said. He argued that the Senate could complete its probe without Arroyo's presence.

Opposition senators vowed to pursue the investigation to its "logical conclusion," and to recommend charges against those liable for the alleged rigging and overpricing of the contract.

De Venecia accused then Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. of brokering for the ZTE and of offering him $10 million in December 2006 to withdraw AHI's proposal.

Abalos was also accused by Neri at the third Senate hearing on Sept. 26 of offering him P200 million in exchange for his endorsement as National Economic and Development Authority director general of the ZTE proposal to undertake the NBN project using a loan from the Chinese government.

Amid the charges and an impeachment case in the House of Representatives, Abalos resigned as Comelec chair on Oct. 1.

During the 10-hour marathon hearing on Sept. 26, Neri said he reported the bribe offer of Abalos to the President. Neri, however, refused to disclose what the President did afterward and why she still approved the deal, saying he was instructed by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita to invoke "executive privilege."

"We in the Senate will make sure that this probe is pursued to its logical end, in aid of legislation. At the end of these hearings, we will make sure that we have all the tools and measures against those seeking to make a windfall from overpriced deals at the expense of the people," Sen. Manuel Roxas II said yesterday.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. noted that the Senate had not gathered enough information to pin all those responsible for the anomalous contract.

Surprise witness

At the Quijano de Manila forum, Sen. Panfilo Lacson said a "surprise witness" in the person of a former ZTE consultant may testify at the hearing.

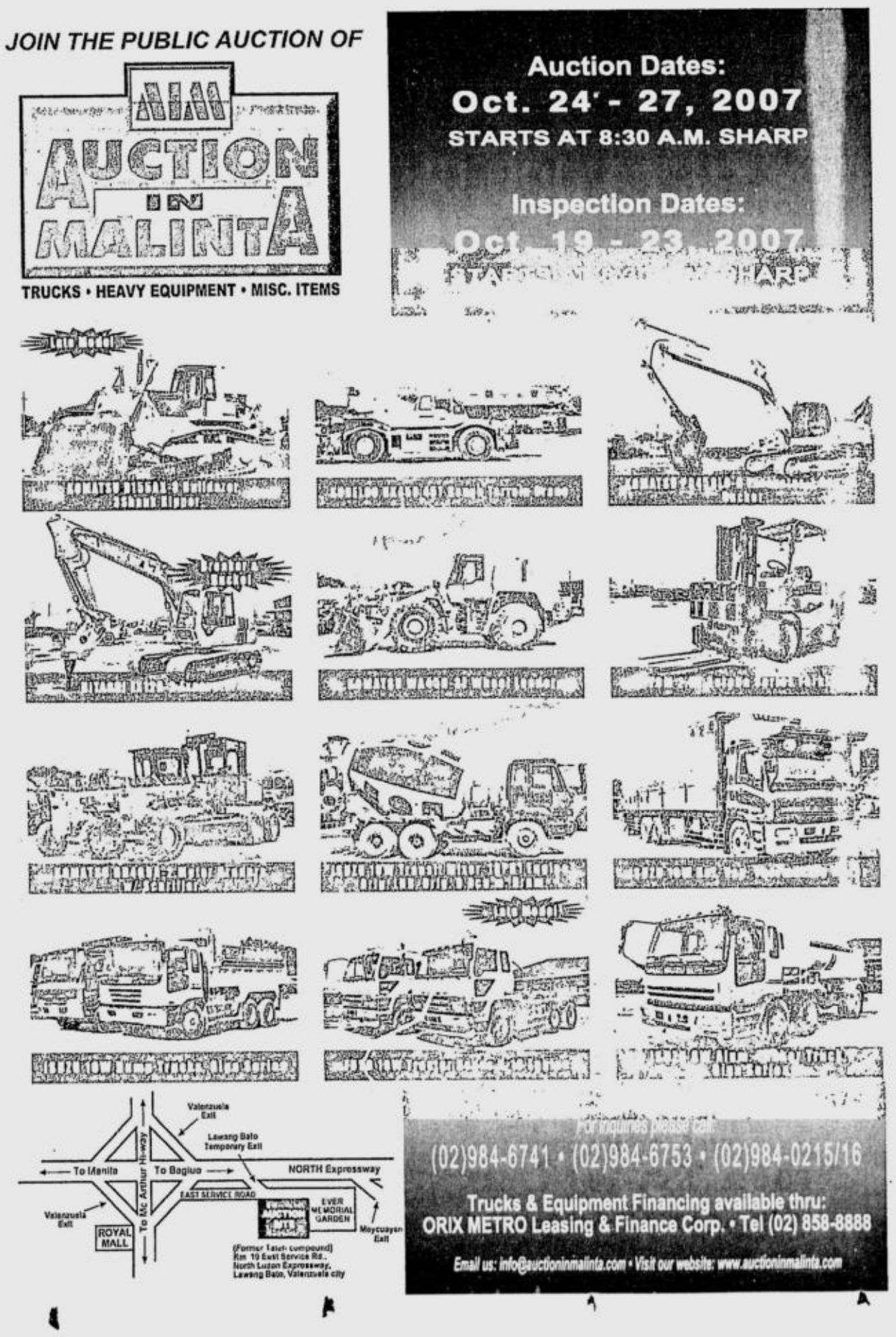
He, however, said that the "new mystery man" hardly had any credibility left after he apparently asked for P5 million to P10 million from various opposition personalities in exchange for his testimony.

The senator said he did not know the identity of the man, but he believed he was peddling himself as someone who could corroborate De Venecia's statements.

On Wednesday, Bacolod City Rep. Monico Puentevella said he received information that the opposition would present the witness at the resumption of the Senate hearing on the ZTE deal.

"I am just warning them [the opposition] that they should not come up with a witness like this. What will we have? Another circus?" said Puentevella, chair of the House committee on transportation.

"According to my sources, he was fired from ZTE after he allegedly leaked information to Amsterdam Holdings Inc.," Puentevella said.



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CONVENTION THEME :

"New Insights On Old Skin Problems and Cosmetic Concerns"

M E S S A G E S

Malacañan Palace
Manila

Warmest greetings to the officers and members of the Philippine Academy of Clinical and Cosmetic Dermatology (PACCD) as you hold your 4th Annual Convention.

This convention with the theme, "New Insights on Old Skin Problems and Cosmetic Concerns," shows your commitment to constantly upgrade and enhance your knowledge and skills in the field of dermatology. It will also serve as a venue for you to discuss critical issues concerning your profession and to keep abreast with the recent developments in your specialty.

May you remain a relevant partner of my administration in implementing innovating policies on the effective delivery of health services to the public. May you also reach out to the most vulnerable sectors of our society and help provide a better future for our people and country.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

Gloria Arroyo

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President, Republic of the Philippines

Warm greetings to the officers and members of the Philippine Academy of Clinical and Cosmetic Dermatology as they hold their 4th Annual Convention with the theme, "New Insights on Old Skin Problems and Cosmetic Concerns".

The Department of Health welcomes this event as an indication of your commitment to undertake more worthy actions that will further improve the field of clinical and cosmetic dermatology for the benefit of our people.

I enjoin you to further aspire for excellence and innovation in promoting activities that will not only improve the dermatological health care industry but also lead our nation towards greater progress and prosperity.

Congratulations and mabuhay kayong lahat!

FRANCISCO T. DUQUE, III, M.D., M.Sc.
Secretary of Health

It is with great pleasure that I congratulate the officers and members of the Philippine Academy of Clinical and Cosmetic Dermatology as you hold your Annual Convention. Such academic activity definitely places your organization at par with all other medical specialty societies committed to diagnosing and treating diseases of the skin.

There is no medical organization that can truly exist by itself. We all share a common interest in understanding the intricacies of the human body, and the diseases that ravage it. We must, therefore, need to shift our thinking from specialization to holistic, from fragmentation to integration, and from diversity to unity.

The Philippine Academy of Medical Specialists is your partner and friend in your own struggle for recognition as a true medical organization. May God bless you and may your tribe increase!

RENE C. CATAN, MD, FPAMS(Orth)
National President
Philippine Academy of Medical Specialists

The Philippine Academy of Clinical and Cosmetic Dermatology (PACCD) will hold its 4th Annual Convention with the theme "New Insights on Old Skin Problems and Cosmetic Concerns" on October 25 and 26 at the EDSA Shangri - La. This informative 2-day affair will have an exposé on the latest technology and the recent breakthroughs in the study of Dermatology.

Board of Trustee

Officers 2006-2007

Organizing Committee 2007

P R O G R A M M E

	Thursday, October 25, 2007	ISLA Ballroom
7:00 - 8:15	REGISTRATION	
8:15 - 9:00	Opening Ceremony National Anthem PACCD Hymn Invocation Opening Remarks	Ma. Luisa G. Santos, MD
9:00 - 9:30	Growth Hormones as Anti-Aging	Angelina Aquende, MD
9:30 - 9:45	OPEN FORUM	Vinson B. Pineda, MD
9:45 - 10:15	SNACK SYMPOSIUM: Pharmalink "Revisiting Topical Costicosteriod Treatment in Eczema"	Hernando Delizo, MD
10:15 - 10:45	Sexually Transmitted Infections: State of the Art	Sonia G. Baluyot, MD
10:45 - 11:30	Therapeutic Challenges in Pediatric Dermatology	Enrique Tayag, MD
11:30- 11:45	OPEN FORUM	Rataporn Ungpakorn, MD
11:45- 1:30	LUNCH SYMPOSIUM: Natrapharm "Immunology of Dermatologic Diseases - Its Pathophysiology & Possible Treatment Options"	Manuel Canlas, MD
1:30 - 2:00	Dermaroller: the Magic Wand of Ageless Beauty	Alain Gondinet, MD
2:00 - 2:30	Management of Fungal Infection - My Secret	Rataporn Ungpakorn, MD
2:30 - 3:00	Easy Agarose: A New Advent in Fillers	Alain Gondinet, MD
3:00 - 3:15	OPEN FORUM	
3:15 - 3:45	SNACK SYMPOSIUM: Creative Skin & SPA Products "Conjonctyl Silicon for the Future"	Alain Gondinet, MD
3:45 - 4:15	Paraneoplastic Skin Disorders: Markers of Internal Malignancy	Priscilla Caguioa, MD
4:15 - 4:30	OPEN FORUM	
4:30 - 5:30	Business Meeting	Maria Victoria Lantin, MD

	Friday, October 26, 2007	ISLA Ballroom
9:00 - 9:45	Highlights of the 21st World Congress in Dermatology	Restituto Acosta, MD
9:45 - 10:30	"Hormones Affecting the Skin: The Physiologic Effects & Imbalances Leading to Skin Abnormalities	Roberto Mirasol, MD
10:30 - 10:45	OPEN FORUM	
10:45 - 11:15	SNACK SYMPOSIUM: Loider Inc. "Role of New Peptides in Facial Wrinkle Repair and Targeting Specific Collagen	Angelina Aquende, MD
11:15 - 11:45	Hydrolipochalasia: Laser Assisted Non-Surgical Liposuction Technique for Dermatologist	Kwon Han Jin, MD
11:45 - 12:00	OPEN FORUM	
12:00 - 1:00	LUNCH SYMPOSIUM: United Shelter Health Products Law on Adulterated and Misbranded Products	Joshua Ramos, Dep. Dir. BFAD
1:00 - 1:45	Presentation of Drug Companies	Sonia Baluyot, MD
1:45 - 2:30	Stem Cells "The Shooting Star to Fountain of Youth"	Romulo De Villa, MD
2:30 - 2:45	OPEN FORUM	
2:45 - 3:30	Botulinum Toxin: Improving Result in Advance Techniques	Joel Nicdao, MD
3:30 - 4:00	OPEN FORUM / SNACK (Allergan)	
4:00 - 4:30	Fractional Resurfacing with Carbon Dioxide - Yag Laser Combination and Advantages of Low Power Diode Laser in Aesthetics	Kwon Han Jin, MD
4:30 - 4:45	OPEN FORUM	
4:45 - 5:00	Closing Ceremony	Rosario Divina Perez, MD
7:00 - 12:00	Fellowship Night (Garden Ballroom - Theme: Tropical)	

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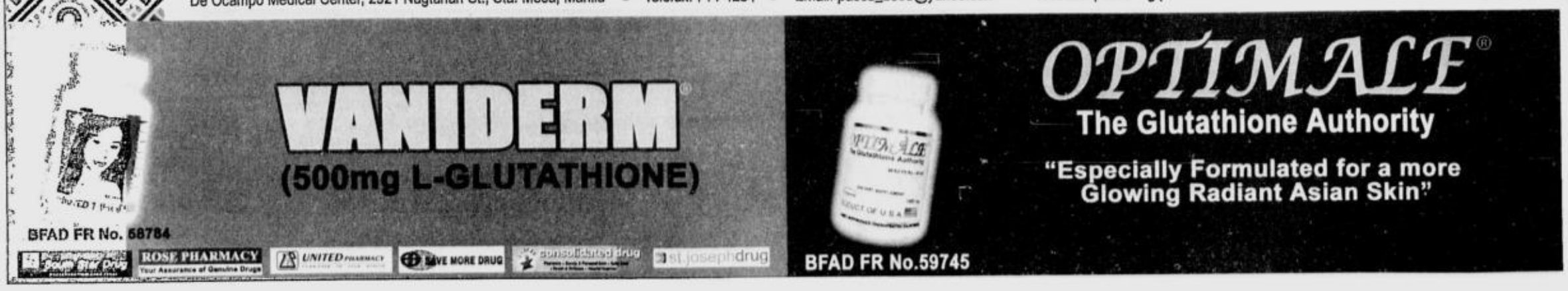

Esperon blinks, orders ...

From page A1

Court of Appeals continued to hear a petition for the writ of habeas corpus filed by the family of Burgos, son of the late publisher and press freedom fighter Jose "Joe" Burgos, that includes a plea for the military to release its report on the license plate.

Burgos' lawyer, Pacifico Agabin, told the court he had watched and heard Esperon's announcement on television, but Justice Remedios Salazar-Fernando threatened to cite in contempt Col. Arthur Abadilla, provost marshal general, if he failed to bring the report to the next hearing on Nov. 7.

Jonas, 36, an activist-agriculturist training peasants in organic farming, was abducted from a Quezon City mall on April 28. His family said the military was involved, noting that one of the vehicles used in the kidnapping had carried the plates of a jeep impounded by the Army.

The military denies the charge. Police investigators have said Burgos was an officer of the communist New People's Army and that he was kidnapped by guerrillas after he was allegedly found to have pilfered NPA funds and that he was working with the military.

Succession of custodians

Esperon said the military investigation of the license plate showed a succession of custodians of the impounded vehicle who failed to do their job of safeguarding it.

He said the military did not know how the license plate eventually "got involved in the commission of the abduction."

Asked if he was certain that no military officer or soldier was involved in the abduction, Esperon replied: "I will not rule out anything at this point. What we are saying is that from what we have now, we would like to say that we are not involved in the abduction."

Esperon said that the writ of amparo, which took effect yesterday, requires the AFP "to do more than just deny" that Burgos is being held by the military. *(See related story Page A1.)*

"He is indeed not with us. The writ of amparo would require us to take steps to find out where he is, and we can comply with that," Esperon said. "As we have done, we have been looking for him also."

One last chance

"We will give the colonel a last opportunity to comply on condition that with or without the approval of the Chief of Staff or the Secretary of National Defense, you are required to bring the report," Justice Fernando told Abadilla.

She said the court would not entertain any postponement or excuse.

Burgos' mother Edita said she was displeased with Esperon's insincerity, considering that he earlier said he would abide by the court's ruling ordering the release of Abadilla's report.

Abadilla told the court that Esperon had declassified the report upon his recommendation, but added clearance from the Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro was needed before its release. "We cannot just act on our own," he said.

He had earlier offered to show the report to the Burgos family in an executive session, but the Burgos lawyers rejected this.

Enough time to comply

Fernando said the court understood that there were processes that the military had to follow, but added that it had given Abadilla enough time to comply with its directive. She also said it was not constrained to wait for Teodoro's response.

"If you don't get any reaction, we would be forced to cite you for contempt, is that fair enough?" Fernando said.

She also said the antigraft law required officials to respond to official communication in 15 days. Otherwise, they would be held liable.

SC receives first writ of amparo ...

From page A1

military camps, to look for their daughters, and sought the arrest of one Arnel Enriquez for his purported involvement in the abduction of the three, and require him to free them.

First day

Yesterday was the first day that the rules governing the writ of amparo took effect.

The writ requires respondents—whether government officials or agencies, or private individuals—to take action to resolve a grievance and not merely deny the allegation against them.

The respondents in the petition are President Macapagal-Arroyo, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, Philippine National Police Director General Avelino Razon, retired Generals Romeo Tolentino and Jovito Palparan, Lieutenant Colonels Rogelio Boac and Felipe Anotado, Donald Caigas and Arnel Enriquez, Lt. Francis Mirabelle Samson and the Court of Appeals' Special Former 11th Division.

Cadapan and Empeño also sought to stop the appellate court from hearing their motion for reconsideration on the habeas corpus petition they had earlier filed, and asked that the court be censured "for being niggardly in the defense of individual rights against state power and terrorism."

They were joined at the Supreme Court yesterday morning by Edita Burgos, whose activist son Jonas has been missing since April. *(See related story on Page A1.)*

Manalo brothers

In the petition, Cadapan and Empeño cited the sworn statement of farmer-brothers Reynaldo and Raymond Manalo that they saw the two missing students when they were earlier detained by the military.

Raymond Manalo had said that he saw and talked to Sherlyn and Karen while in Zambales, and that the two were also being hurt by their captors. He added that he also witnessed the killing of Merino in Limay, Bataan.

The Manalo brothers issued their statement a few months after the appellate court dismissed the habeas corpus petition for the missing students and Merino.

Per their statement, the Manalos were abducted by the military in February 2006. They escaped in August 2007 after being brought to several military camps where they were subjected to severe torture, they said.

The Supreme Court has since issued a temporary restraining order on the military to prevent the brothers' arrest.

Yesterday, the Manalos asked that the high court convert their earlier petition—which sought its protection as well as an order to stop the military from arresting them—into one for a writ of amparo.

The Supreme Court justices are on recess, but will hold a special en banc session today to deliberate on the two petitions for the writ, according to spokesperson Jose Midas Marquez.

Imminent danger

The mothers said their petition for the writ of habeas corpus had remained unresolved since they filed a motion for reconsideration of the appellate court's decision to reject it.

They said the lives of their daughters were "in real imminent danger ... while one person, Arnel Enriquez, who has a warrant of arrest, remains scot free."

The mothers also cited the testimony of Sherlyn Cadapan's mother-in-law, whom the student briefly visited in her home in April while accompanied by soldiers.

They said they had sought all the remedies available to them, and that the writ of amparo was the only thing to which they could now resort.

The places that the mothers want inspected—and where their daughters and Merino had reportedly been seen—are the camp of the 7th Infantry Division at Fort Magsaysay, Laur, Nueva Ecija; the camp of the 24th Infantry Battalion at Limay, Bataan; the Army detachment in the Valmocina Farm in Pinaod, San Ildefonso, Bulacan; the Army detachment at Barangay Hall, Sapang, San Miguel, Bulacan; Camp Tecson in San Miguel, Bulacan; the rest house of Donald Caigas of the 24th IB at Barangay Banog, Bolinao, Pangasinan; the 56th IB headquarters in Hagonoy, Bulacan; the Army detachment at Barangay Mercado, Hagonoy, Bulacan; and the Beach House sa Iba, Zambales, a purported safehouse with a retired soldier as a caretaker.

Killings, disappearances

The writ of amparo was specifically issued by the high court in response to the rash of extrajudicial killings and forced disappearances of activists and journalists that have been the subject of international attention and criticism.

The rules governing the writ remove from authorities the defense of denial, order them to take more action to solve killings and disappearances, and demand from authorities more action and accountability.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, October 25, 2007
29th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Rom 6:19-23
Gospel: Luke 12:49-53

Jesus said to his disciples, "I have come to bring fire upon the earth and how I wish it were already kindled; but I have a baptism to undergo and what anguish I feel until it is over!

"Do you think that I have come to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. From now on, in one house five will be divided; three against two, and two against three. They will be divided, father against son and son against father; mother against daughter and daughter against mother; mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law, and daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law."

Commentary

We have all sinned with our bodies, sexually and in relation to others in regard to justice and forgiveness. But now we are the servants of justice so that we may be made holy. We have known what death/sin/evil/injustice and violence does in our lives and in others. Now we are to know what holiness, grace, the Spirit, and love—that is the life of God—and what it does in our lives and others. This is the gift of Jesus the Christ in our lives at baptism that we carry around in our bodies.

Jesus intends to light a fire on earth-it is the baptism of light and the Spirit. Jesus has not come to make everything 'nice' but to stir up what has been lying dormant and dead—to call each of us to commit ourselves to passionately obey God. This will cause dissent and division in our families, churches, and the world. This is a baptism of fire that can bring anguish because it is rejected by many and accepted by a few. Have we accepted this baptism of fire?

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Ayala blasts PNP probe

From page A1

"We have not found any parts of a bomb. If we were to weigh on a scale the evidence we gathered pointing to a gas explosion on one hand and a bomb on the other, the gas explosion theory will have more weight," Razon said. But he added that the inquiry was not yet done.

Razon also said that while police investigators had initially found traces of RDX, a component used in high explosives like C4, this could be found in other products like deodorants, aerosols and sprays.

In Malacañang, Sergio Apostol, President Macapagal-Arroyo's chief legal counsel, said both ALI and Makati City Hall could be held liable for negligence if the police's initial finding was confirmed.

"Once we have made our results concrete, the private owner and the city engineer's office and the mayor should answer all the questions why they allowed this to happen," Apostol said.

ALI is majority-owned by the Zobel de Ayala family, and the Makati government is led by Mayor Jejomar Binay.

No 'aberrations'

Ayala said the diesel fuel tank in the G2 basement had an estimated content of 6,000 liters on the day of the blast, compared with its full capacity of about 14,000 liters.

"There are no reports or observations by maintenance personnel of any aberrations [in] the diesel tank," he said.

Ayala said there was ventilation in the basement through air entering the approximately 2.4-meter-by-2.4-meter opening at the stairwell connected to the delivery bay, which at that time was open to the road.

He said there was ambient room temperature with an estimated range of 28-30 degrees Celsius.

According to Ayala, there is a grease trap that separates grease from the wastewater entering a sump pit that collects water. There are two types of sump pits in the basement—one where wastewater from the kitchens of five G2 restaurants enters, and another where wastewater from toilets in a portion of G2 (consisting of 21 water closets, 20 lavatories and 8 urinals) is dumped.

Constant flow

Still according to Ayala, a pump in the kitchen sump pit automatically pumps wastewater to the main city sewer line.

In the waste sump pit, waste is seldom solid and mostly liquid, he said, citing an opinion by the Ayala Group's sewage expert. Wastewater enters the sump pit and is pumped out to the street sewer by a sump pump.

"Therefore, there is constant flow of mainly liquid wastewater from the toilets into the sump pit and on to the city sewer. Wastewater entering the sump pit stays in the sump pit for less than 24 hours. The usual decomposition process brought about by large amounts of solid matter in house septic tanks does not occur in this commercial sump pit," he said.

Ayala would not say whether these data dispelled the industrial-accident theory that banked on possible leaks from the basement septic tank or the seepage of methane gas.

"The reason we are sharing this is there are facts here that we think would be relevant to the authorities who are doing their analysis, and we feel this information would be helpful," he said. "We are not in a position at this point to draw conclusions. That is the job of the authorities investigating the matter."

Ayala said the internal analysis was to prepare ALI for any outcome of the PNP investigation.

"This is a very serious incident and we are looking at all the angles ... so we are ready whatever the outcome. We are ready to take action as soon as possible to make sure the safety of our premises are in place," he said.

Asked whether ALI was prepared for a possible class action suit in case police investigators concluded an accident, he merely said: "Ayala has always done the right thing.

"Whatever the outcome of this investigation by authorities, we are prepared to take whatever actions are necessary in order to further the interest of the public and our patrons."

Temporary closure

ALI spokesperson Alfonso Reyes said the company received yesterday a temporary closure order from the city government.

City engineers conducted the inspection yesterday morning.

Ayala said the Glorietta shopping complex would be closed starting yesterday until the company receives the go-signal from the city government to resume business.

G2 accounts for roughly 2 percent (or roughly P123 million) of total full-year revenues of the shopping complex, based on 2006 data, Reyes said.

The damage to G2 has affected some 100 tenants, representing 10 percent of the total 1,000 tenants in the shopping complex.

"We will open once they tell us that they have thoroughly conducted their investigation and, in their estimation, that the mall is ready to open. This is a preventive measure and we fully agree that we do not want to open in a situation where the mall is not safe. Makati is doing its job on a thorough basis but the timetable is their timetable," Ayala said.

But he said ALI's mall operations—consisting of Glorietta, Greenbelt and other Ayala-owned shopping malls—accounted for only 17 percent of the property firm's total annual revenues.

"Given the size of our company and the fact that the economy is doing well, and all aspects of real estate, we expect to end 2007 on a strong up note from last year," Ayala said.

As a condition for the lifting of the closure order, Mayor Binay told ALI to get a certification from occupational safety experts that the environs of the blast site were free of toxicity.

He imposed other requirements, like the green light on the structural integrity of the Glorietta complex from the City Engineer's Office and the Office of the Building Official.

Binay also required assurance from mall owners that no seepage of toxic substances from Glorietta 2 would occur at Glorietta 1, 3 and 4.

"Our action will be based on their compliance. Whether Glorietta would open tomorrow (Thursday) will depend on how they satisfy our conditions," he said after inspecting the blast site and the adjoining area.

The entire Glorietta was shut down yesterday on orders of City Engineer Nelson Morales, who demanded that a thorough inspection of the complex be conducted and the area declared safe before it could open.

Scout Binay

Binay conducted the inspection, the fourth such check of Glorietta 2 by the city government since Monday, upon arriving from Japan, where he attended a scouting conference.

Still wearing his scout uniform, Binay showed reporters around the Glorietta 2 entrance and pointed to some of the materials recovered from the rubble, including vehicle parts.

He put on a gas mask and helmet before entering the blast site. Upon returning, he said it looked like Glorietta 1, 3 and 4 were "OK," but that Glorietta 2 had incurred serious damage.

Earlier inspections showed that Glorietta 1, 3 and 4 were structurally sound for the most part. But experts had yet to inspect the ventilation and air conditioning systems to check if these were "self-contained or centralized," among other things.

"There's a noxious smell coming from the blast site at Glorietta 2. The smell is really bad and hurts the eye, and we have to ensure that there is no seepage to Glorietta 1, 3 and 4," Binay said.

His political adviser, Lito Anzures, described the smell as "a mix of gas diesel and methane and other gases," which as of yesterday was being examined by members of the Occupational Safety and Health Center.

Physical evidence

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the case would "ultimately boil down to physical evidence."

He said police investigators had been getting adequate support from the US Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Australian Federal Police.

At a briefing in Malacañang, Chief Supt. Luizo Ticman, director of the Southern Police District, told reporters that US and Australian bomb experts had basically come to the same conclusion as the PNP that the explosion could not have been caused by a bomb.

"I have talked to them on a personal basis ... And our counterparts from the US, for example, have the same findings," he said.

Ticman said that once the investigation had been wrapped up and the accident theory upheld, the next step would be to file a case against the private operator and Makati City Hall officials.

"If indeed the investigation showed it was caused by a gas explosion, these people will be held for negligence," he said. "At this point, the focus of our investigation is the gas explosion because there is no evidence to suggest that it was a bomb explosion," he said.

Ticman basically said the same thing in his briefing for the INQUIRER. *With reports from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Alcuin Papa*

Opposition to Erap pardon gaining ground

From page A1

life imprisonment for plunder on Sept. 12, and sought a pardon from Ms Arroyo through his lawyers.

Explaining the unexpected move, Estrada yesterday reiterated that he finally followed his lawyers' advice because he realized that pursuing the motion would be a futile exercise.

Ms Arroyo "owns the power and authority now. The military is under her, the police is under her. All the agencies of the government are under her," Estrada told the INQUIRER in a phone interview. "But in the end, it's not me but the people who will decide whether she is a legitimate president or not."

He, however, absolved Ms Arroyo from talks that the administration had entered into a deal with him to give him a pardon.

"In fairness to Ms Arroyo, there was no deal," Estrada said, adding that in the letter written by his lawyers, he also did not specify a waiver for the forfeiture of his civil liability.

"They can have that because I never owned any of them," he said, referring to the P545 million in "jueteng" payoffs, the P189 million in commissions from Belle Shares Corp. and the P142-million "Boracay Mansion" for which he was convicted.

Before Nov. 7?

The P200 million deposited in the Erap Muslim Youth Foundation account remained intact, but for the balance, the government should go after whistleblower and former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, Estrada said.

Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno on Tuesday said he expected Estrada to be pardoned and sent home before Christmas. But Estrada, who has been detained for six years, said he was hoping his release would be before Nov. 7, the scheduled execution of judgment on his sentence of imprisonment.

The Sandiganbayan has set the proceedings for Nov. 7, or 15 days after he withdrew his motion for reconsideration. It will issue an order transferring Estrada to the New Bilibid Prisons in the absence of an original copy of Ms Arroyo's approval of Estrada's request for pardon, said Renato Bocar, executive clerk of court and acting spokesperson of the antigraft court.

"But if the issuance of pardon comes first, the execution of judgment will be canceled because it will already be moot and academic," Bocar said in an interview.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye cautioned the public against speculating whether the President would grant pardon to Estrada.

"At this point, we can only say in very general terms that the justice secretary would come up with their recommendation that would be consistent with justice and consistent with our national interest," he said.

'Insult to due process'

Dante Jimenez, founding chair of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC), which took part in the filing of impeachment and plunder cases against Estrada, said granting the former President a pardon would be "an insult to due process" and warned that Ms Arroyo would be "inviting disaster" if she agrees to it.

"It's sad that the issue is being politicized and it's wrong. We might as well abolish our laws against graft and corruption and rely on surveys," Jimenez told the INQUIRER.

He recalled a government official's retort that recent surveys showed many Filipinos believed Estrada was not guilty and wanted him set free.

Unless the people voiced out their outrage, NOPE leader De Vera said the presidential pardon would not only set Estrada free but also erase and wipe out his crime.

"Estrada will be considered before the eyes of the law as if he had not committed the crime of plunder. A presidential pardon has the effect of the sacrament of baptism; it erases and wipes out our original sin and we appear sinless before the eyes of God," he said.

'Special' standard

NOPE said that a presidential pardon for Estrada "would validate the strong belief of our people that in the Philippines, justice is sacrificed before the altar of politics and that the rich and influential have a 'special' standard of justice while the weak and the poor must rot in jail."

"Should not pardon also be granted to thousands of Filipinos who are now in jail for stealing much smaller amount of money from the government?" De Vera said. "Many of them stole out of family need and not out of personal greed."

The citizens group Maypagasa, which is identified with Vice President Noli de Castro, called the pardon issue "a rotten deal for the survival of a rotten government."

Ferdinand Hicap, chair of the fisherfolk group Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas, said "the political pardon being offered by President Macapagal-Arroyo ... is like a peace offering coming from a syndicate in an intense war against another powerful mafia."

'Political psywar'

"It is a political psywar (psychological warfare), the purpose of which is to eliminate the Estrada camp from the broad anti-Arroyo movement, by pacifying Mr. Estrada and containing his supporters," Hicap said.

Pardon is Ms Arroyo's way of "defusing the political crisis; she's trying to lessen her enemies," said Bagong Alyansang Makabayan secretary general Renato Reyes Jr.

Partido ng Manggagawa chair Renato Magtubo said it "will also herald the message that plunder can be forgiven, a convenient precedent when the time comes that Ms Arroyo is no longer in power and the long arms of justice finally catches up with her."

Miriam College stand

According to faculty members of Miriam College in Quezon City, Estrada "should not be pardoned without justice being rendered first and a sincere apology to the Filipino people" by the deposed leader, not by his lawyers.

"Education is extremely difficult when the school teaches the values of good citizenship and the country's leaders subvert them," Raul Alejandrino, president of Miriam College Faculty Association, said in a letter to the INQUIRER. "Justice will not be served if Erap escapes the reclusion perpetua that he was justly sentenced to."

Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar V. Cruz, a staunch government critic, said Ms Arroyo's issuance of a pardon would do nothing to save her from her credibility woes springing from the corruption controversies involving her administration.

Cruz, chair of the Krusada ng Bayan Laban sa Jueteng (Nation's Crusade Against Jueteng), said that in case of a pardon, the President would earn the ire of projustice organizations clamoring to put the deposed President in jail for plunder. But if Ms Arroyo denied the appeal, she would get the hatred of Estrada's mass supporters, he said. *With reports from Jerry E. Esplanada and Beverly T. Natividad*

Pinoy on Time magazine's list of Green heroes

From page A1

in waste and highly polluting waste incinerators that led the Philippines to ban waste incineration in 1999, the first country to do so.

"He deserves all the honor. He represents the authentic environmental activist. He walks his talk. He knows his direction. He knows the problems of the planet," environmentalist Odette Alcantara said in an interview.

Hernandez "belongs to the pantheon of Filipino environmentalists that made their mark at the international level," said Richard Gutierrez of Basel Action Network (BAN).

"He helped blaze the way and is an inspiration for Filipino environmentalists to be fully engaged on the international environmental issues," Gutierrez said.

2nd international accolade

The Time citation was the second international accolade for the 40-year-old environmental activist, who was awarded the Goldman Environmental Prize in 2003, the Nobel Prize equivalent for grass-roots environmentalists.

In the magazine's special edition, Hernandez was lumped together with other activists who made a huge impact in their countries.

Gore, Gorbachev, Prince Charles and others were grouped as leaders and visionaries.

The rest of the heroes fell under the categories of scientists and innovators, and moguls and entrepreneurs.

Gratifying

Hernandez described the Time recognition as "gratifying," but said the honor belonged to groups and communities who had been showing the way on efficient waste prevention.

"It's a surprise to receive this recent accolade, but the real heroes here are the groups and communities whose work on waste prevention shows the way forward in our campaign for sustainability," he said in a text message from Thailand.

"Our leaders should learn from them," Hernandez said.

Validation of work

Hernandez was presiding over a meeting of the Greenpeace Southeast Asia in Bangkok to "decide the focus of our work in the coming years" when the INQUIRER reached him for comment.

"Like the Goldman award, the Time recognition is an important validation not only of my work as an activist but also of the urgency of the planetary crisis now confronting us," he said.

"The personal recognition is gratifying but as an activist I know that time is fast running out," he added.

Hernandez began working with Greenpeace International in 1995 as coordinator for its antitoxic campaign in Asia. He then launched a campaign against plans to set up waste incinerators to deal with the waste problems in Metro Manila, according to Greenpeace.

Clean Air Act

The campaign led to the passage of the Philippine Clean Air Act in 1999, which banned waste incineration. Together with other allies in the environment, Hernandez next campaigned for the passage of the Ecological Waste Management Act, which mandates segregation of wastes, and development of materials recovery facilities, among others.

Alcantara, founder of the Mother Earth Network, said she agreed with the Time commendation given to Hernandez.

"He led the campaign in banning waste incinerators; we're the first to do that. That's a monumental achievement for a serious environmental activist," she said.

Networker

"He's credible because he knows his facts. And the reason he's successful is because he values networking. He's a networker," Alcantara said.

Gutierrez agreed: "He introduced a distinct style of activism here in the Philippines. You can immediately see it's a Greenpeace action, and one will immediately say 'Ah, Von Hernandez.'"

As an environmentalist, Hernandez has initiated a host of campaigns for projects like the rehabilitation of Pasig River, and cleanup toxic contaminated sites in the former US military bases in Pampanga and Zambales.

Alliance, coalition

Hernandez either founded or convened other environmental coalitions such as the Global Anti-Incineration Alliance (Gaia), Waste Not Asia, Lakbay Kalikasan, the Eco-Waste Coalition, and the Sagip Pasig Movement, among others.

Hernandez said a lot of work lay ahead of him, not only in the Philippines but also in the region.

"Right now, I am focused on helping pressure world governments to agree on a fresh and renewed mandate under the Kyoto protocol to bring down greenhouse gas emissions in order to avert climate chaos," he said.

Waste and climate crisis

Greenpeace will organize activities for a forthcoming climate change convention in Bali, Indonesia, in December "to highlight the role of dirty fossil fuels and deforestation in increasing greenhouse gas emissions."

"Globally, we only have 100 months to reverse destructive trends and avoid a climate crisis of catastrophic proportions. Business as usual and overconsumption are giving rise both to the waste crisis and the climate crisis," Hernandez said.

On top of all this, Hernandez is also overseeing Greenpeace work on water pollution in the Philippines and Thailand.

"The work never stops, but can we really afford to give up fighting for our future?" he said.

Fil-Ams among US fire victims

By Nimfa U. Rueda
Correspondent

LOS ANGELES—FILIPINO-AMERICANS ARE among the hundreds of thousands displaced by the raging wildfires in Southern California, the Philippine consulate reported yesterday.

The consulate has formed a team to locate Fil-Am evacuees and meet with US emergency management officials to coordinate efforts to assist the Fil-Am victims of the wildfires, which have sparked the biggest evacuation in California history.

Among seven counties affected by the fires are Los Angeles and San Diego, where the majority of the more than 480,000 Filipinos in Southern California live. The other counties are Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, Santa Barbara and Ventura.

The latest census showed that the Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County metropolitan area has over 370,000 Fil-Am residents. The actual number is believed to be much higher since census numbers do not include undocumented immigrants.

The consulate team, headed by Vice Consul Jim Tito San Agustin, is scheduled to visit evacuation centers in San Diego tomorrow.

The consulate has opened an emergency line for affected Filipino nationals: (213) 268-9990. It also urged Fil-Am organizations to "contribute in any way they can" to help victims of the wildfires.

As of Tuesday (Wednesday in Manila), the wildfires have burned over 400,000 acres and destroyed more than 1,300 homes, according to California's Office of Emergency Services. About 500,000 have been evacuated in San Diego County alone. More than 6,000 firefighters have been deployed, and 900 fire engines, 25 air tankers and 40 helicopters have been sent to battle the blaze.

President George W. Bush has declared a state of emergency in Southern California.

"The people of California need all the help they can get at this tragic time and this action will allow our citizens to get the assistance they need," California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said.

6 Customs men suspended over undervalued cars

THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN YESterday ordered six Bureau of Customs employees suspended for alleged involvement in the smuggling of 14 luxury cars, which were undervalued at about P1 million each, at the Subic Bay Freeport in February 2007.

Those placed under a six-month preventive suspension were Josephine Dullas, acting chief of the certificate of payment unit at BOC-Subic; customs examiners Orlando Ronquillo, Rustico Mallari and Enrico Cruz, and principal appraisers Ebrahim Pangkatan and Rodolfo Casis.

The six BOC employees were accused of conspiring to release the 14 luxury vehicles, worth an estimated P37 million, without the proper payment of tax obligations.

Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez said the six employees' names and signatures on the release documents were "prima facie presumption" that they had deliberately participated in the crime and admitted the accuracy of the written items contained in the documents.

"The office finds sufficient basis to place the respondents under preventive suspension pending investigation of the case," Gutierrez said, and directed Finance Secretary Margarito Teves to immediately implement the suspension order.

The case stemmed from a complaint filed by the finance department's Revenue Integrity Protection Service with the antigraft body last month.

The complaint said three brand-new Audi 8L were valued at only $2,100 each (roughly P96,600 each); a Chevrolet Corvette at $1,600 (P73,600) and three BMW 750Li at $1,600 each (P72,500 each).

The three car models' actual "blue book value," however, has been placed at $72,090 (P3.2 million), $51,535 (P2.34 million) and $78,100 (P3.53 million), respectively. *Jocelyn R. Uy*

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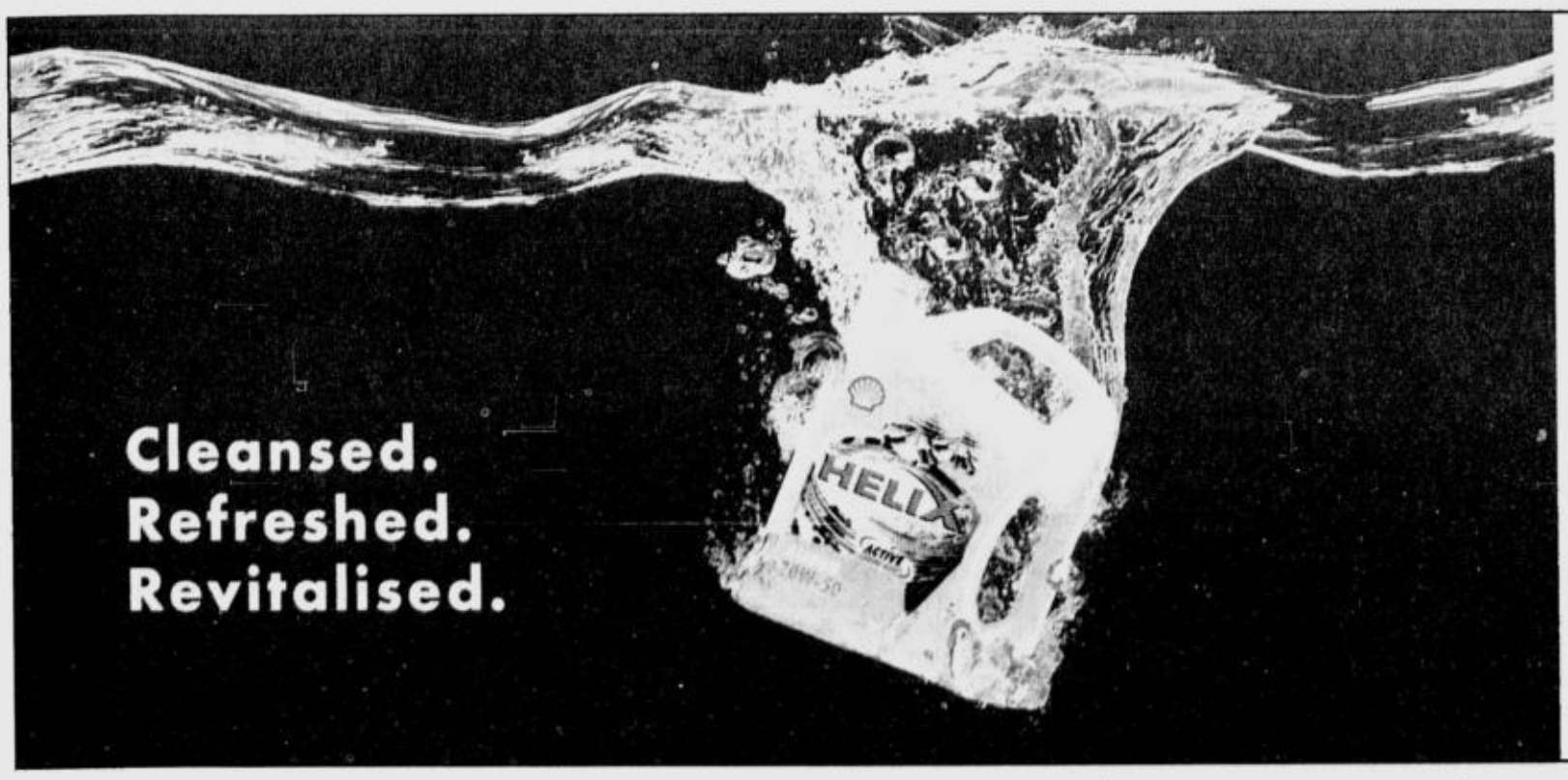

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Don't rush

EDITORIAL

WE DO NOT KNOW WHO WAS THE FIRST TO raise the possibility that a liquefied petroleum gas tank caused the explosion at the Glorietta 2 mall. Perhaps it was an eyewitness or perhaps it was a radio commentator speculating on air. But a few hours after the explosion, this theory was firmly set aside, and by responsible officers of the country's armed services.

The blast was most likely caused by a "hard explosive," Chief Insp. Reynold Rosero of the Philippine Bomb Data Center told reporters. (He also described the event as "most likely a deliberate attack.") Philippine National Police Director General Avelino Razon echoed the line later in the day.

The day after the blast, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon issued a categorical statement. "It is a terrorist attack," he said.

That same day, the PNP Crime Laboratory and the Bomb Data Center told the National Security Council meeting in Camp Crame that they had found traces of RDX, an ingredient used in such explosives as C4, which is used by the military.

But the following day, Sunday, the wind began to change direction. The police director for Metro Manila, Geary Barias, soft-pedaled the previous day's assertion that RDX was found, saying its presence would have to be verified by "additional testing."

This change came on the heels of the rather odd announcement, late on Saturday, that the blast originated from the basement of the mall.

"The explosion came from the underground, that's why there was a crater-like structure in the stairs going to the basement," Rosero of the Bomb Data Center told reporters. Aside from the curious construction of that statement (did the police officer say a crater **in** the stairs?), there is also the inconvenient fact that Makati City Councilor Jun-Jun Binay had already told the media, on the day of the blast, that the explosion left an eight-meter-wide crater on the ground floor.

Even without that conflict in testimony, however, Rosero's unqualified assertion that the blast started in the basement was rather premature. Why? Because on the day he said that, the basement in question was still heavily flooded. (There were mentions of the flooding in the early stories.)

Where did the water come from? From two tanks in the area, one containing water for fire-fighting purposes, the other water for ordinary use. Thus, in the first few days after the blast, not a single person entered the basement, because the water was filthy and deep.

How can anyone say on Saturday, and categorically, that the blast emanated from the basement?

By late Monday, the authorities had changed their principal theory. Without dismissing the possibility that the Glorietta tragedy was a terrorist bombing, the investigators said the blast could have been the result of an industrial accident.

Fire Supt. Fenniore Jaudian told police reporters an "accumulation of methane" in the basement could have caught fire and, in the process, caused the diesel tank in the basement (used to run emergency power generators) to explode.

Chemical engineers from the University of the Philippines have come forward to make their skepticism about the "methane + diesel" theory public. To be sure, they have not visited the site, and they have prefaced their remarks with qualifying statements. And yet in principle, their reservations about the theory should give any reasonable person pause. Diesel is famously non-volatile; methane build-up requires a confined space and a stagnant supply of solid waste.

It seems to us that for the new theory to work, the threshold of conditions assumed to exist is rather high.

We recognize, of course, that theories change as more facts emerge. We understand that, aside from that stray remark about RDX traces being found, not much else points to a bomb. But we also realize that in some high-profile terrorist acts, it took government investigators some time to prove that bombs were in fact used.

We acknowledge the investigators' readiness to continue considering the bombing angle—they were, after all, the first to consider it. We recognize their testing of new theories as consistent with the emergence of new facts. We believe, however, that their main duty, at this time, is to ascertain all the necessary facts. Unless these are established, any theory offered to the public is a rush to judgment.

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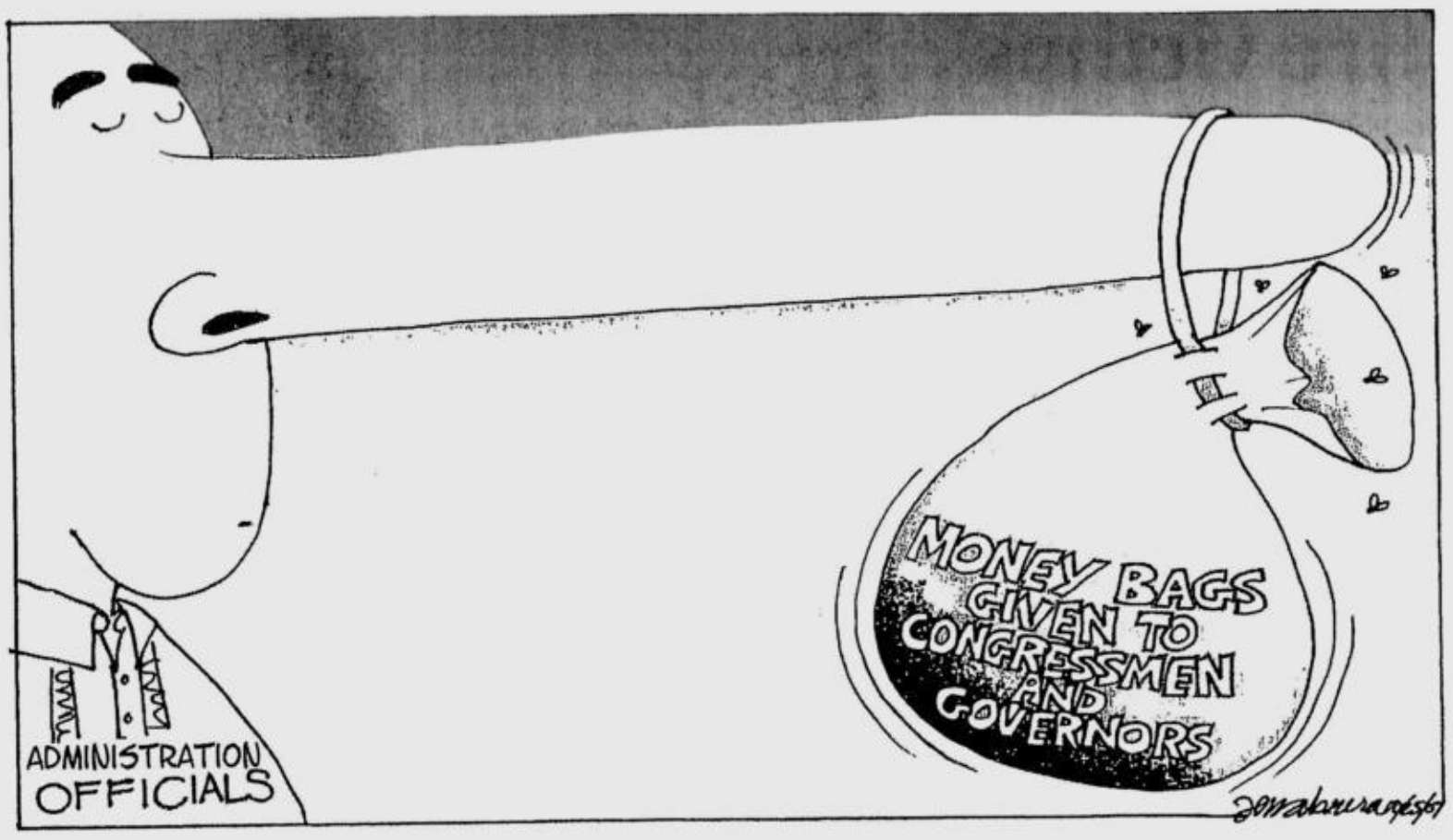

Cretin policies

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

LAPU-LAPU CITY—DESPITE THIN DEMAND, this country has an oversupply of cretins. One glimpses this in how Mayor Arturo Radaza's handling of economic zones on Mactan Island chills 17 other ecozones nationwide.

This city is named after the chieftain who bushwhacked Ferdinand Magellan in 1521. The roots of Radaza's "10 minutes of headlines" are more prosaic. His office snapped up shoddy street lamps for the Asean Summit at P95,000 a throw. The Ombudsman skewered his honor with six months' suspension.

But Mactan is more than just guitars, seafood—or Radaza. It's also 142 factories, sprawled over 213 hectares. They produce watches, electronics, computers, etc. They account for 9 percent of the country's exports.

The payrolls for 43,000 workers inject P300 million monthly into the economy. Its population density is 3,581 persons per square kilometer, notes San Carlos University's Office of Population Studies. That's almost five times that of Cebu Province. One out of every four workers over age 20 has a college education.

Nitwits strangle geese that lay golden eggs, sages tell us. But then they never met Radaza's "buccaneers." Lapu-Lapu City's income last year exceeded P652 million, the Commission on Audit reveals. Of this, P249 million came in "untied" Internal Revenue Allotments. So, why is the joint choked by garbage, traffic, squatters and a water shortage?

The city never built a sewerage system. Over a quarter (25.6 percent) of homes lack toilets. Across the narrow Mactan Channel is Mandaue. That city whittled down toilet-less homes to only 4.0 percent.

Almost 17 percent of Lapu-Lapu homes buy murky water from ambulant peddlers. That's triple the buyers (4.9 percent) in next-door Cebu City. And export zone firms pay tankers to fill their cisterns.

Where did the cash go? Overstaffed offices chewed up P203 million. And P23 million went to the purchase of overpriced computer clones, bought at P49,500 each from a hole-in-the-wall firm, said Mactan Island Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) president Efrain Pelaez Jr. Those Pentium 4 clones are sold at half the cost in legit shops. Pelaez sued Radaza and 18 others for this re-run of the Asean street lamp fiasco.

MCCI's March survey of member-firms on corruption reported that out of 28 respondents, 25 bumped into grafters. "Crime, like virtue, has degrees." Thirteen respondents were dunned between P50,000 and P2 million. Five firms were squeezed for P5 million or more. At least 18 had their arms twisted for a "fixed amount," i.e. a percentage of the project cost to grease processing of permits and clearances.

The mayor's assistants demanded money to "facilitate" release of a license, permit or clearance, said 15 respondents. Another 12 claimed that "the mayor himself made the demand." As the old jingle asked, "Would you buy a second-hand car from this guy?"

In response, City Hall uncorked the threadbare "Alzheimer's Knee-Jerk." Radaza hunkered down. But officials Teodulo Ybañez and Rolando Duero subbed as "bouncers." Pelaez's firms would be padlocked, they vowed, since over the last 10 years, they didn't secure permits, licenses, etc. and they owed P5.4 million in business and realty taxes.

That's almost half of the P12.8 million the COA says Lapu-Lapu earned last year from permits and licenses. Radaza remembers hefty IOUs only when jabbed with graft raps? If so, Alzheimer's is not the problem here. It is vindictive discrimination.

"If two wrongs don't make a right, try for a third," says an old adage. The third that Radaza opted for was to stomp on a court order to maintain the status quo until Oct. 31. His musclemen padlocked Pelaez's Marina Mall with its 82 tenants. And for good measure, they demolished a stone-paved causeway built by Pelaez.

Losses exceeded P8 milllion in the nine hours it took the Philippine Economic Zone Authority to rip the City Hall seals off. The Special Economic Zone Act of 1995 (RA 7916) gives Peza jurisdiction over locators. Pelaez's firms are locators and have Peza permits.

"The naked display of arrogance and power jeopardized the business climate and growing investments," the Cebu Provincial Board said in a resolution. "Respect the rule of law" and act with "prudence," it counseled

"We never violated the court's restraining order," a Lapu-Lapu official said. "The TRO prevented us from enforcing notice of demolition. Closure was not covered by the TRO."

But people are not cretins. They see this as defense of the indefensible.

In economic zones, from Bataan to Laguna to Leyte, such ham-handed policies stir deep unease. Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia, Rep. Nerissa Soon-Ruiz and businessmen made this point in calls to the President. Presidential Management Staff chief Cerge Remonde says he has been asked to mediate.

Pro forma Palace intervention raises expectations. But they achieve little unless citizens are aroused. That's the Cebu experience. A citizen complaint led courts to order Mayor Tomas Osmeña to dismantle his arbitrary blockade of South Highway.

"Complaints from each side are serious," the Sun Star noted. And the public expects not another political massage but that the issues "be resolved to yield the truth."

Lapu-Lapu officials chose to massage themselves by sweeping graft charges under the rug. The council debated whether to declare Pelaez persona non grata.

With Department of Interior and Local Government support, City Hall officials ran a self-evaluation exercise. They graded themselves "outstanding."

"Lord, what fools these mortals be," snaps Puck in "Midsummer's Night Dream."

(E-mail: juanlmercado@gmail.com)

The sheep ain't lost, the shepherds are

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

SOME 18 BISHOPS FROM MINDANAO SEE things differently. "The growing call for resignation of President Arroyo is still premature," they say, reacting to calls from their counterparts in the capital for her to do so. Led by Archbishop Fernando Capalla, former head of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines and still defender of the faith—also called GMA—the 18 bishops declare:

"We believe that the whole truth about any moral issue must be ascertained or firmed before subjecting it to moral scrutiny and judgment. Otherwise, any statement on the matter may be premature and counter-productive. Hence, there is a need for a thorough and impartial investigation as prescribed by law, truth and honesty and a sense of patriotism... And we pray for sobriety, calmness and peace to Jesus Christ the prince of peace."

Poor Mindanao. Or poor Christian flock of Mindanao to be led by shepherds such as these. This declaration will go down the annals of Philippine history as comparable to the ululations the friars of Jose Rizal's time flung on "*an mana indios*" to keep them loyal to Spanish rule. It does not offer an argument for the faithful to be faithful to GMA, it offers an argument for the faithful to convert to Islam.

At the very least what's wrong with it is that it is nonsensical. What in hell (heaven can have nothing to do with it) does it mean to ascertain the whole truth about any moral issue first before you can subject it to moral scrutiny? God, or his prophets, may speak in mysterious ways, but this is not mysterious, this is incomprehensible. You suspend moral scrutiny until the whole truth is known about something, you will never morally scrutinize anything. Or have you ever reached a point where you knew the whole truth about anything?

But, well, maybe we should have followed this piece of advice, or just a fraction thereof, during Erap's time. Then we would never have had these bishops' favorite non-President to torment us. Lest we forget, the whole truth about Erap's wrongdoing was not known when the citizens rose to oust him. All we knew were the accusations hurled against him at the impeachment trial which we rightly subjected to moral scrutiny and judgment. All we knew was that Erap's minions in the Senate did not want the second envelope to be opened which we rightly presumed to contain damning evidence since people who have nothing to hide normally do not suppress things. To this day, does anybody really know the whole truth about Erap—or the Sandiganbayan which convicted him?

Yet to this day, too, I have not heard Capalla or any of his friends complain bitterly that this country never gave the ex- (and real) president a chance, rushing to oust him before ever the whole truth was known. No wonder Jaime Cardinal Sin looms large in the moral landscape. In the land of the blind, the one-eyed is king; in the land of moral pygmies, the reasonably righteous is titan.

It's all very well to conduct a thorough and impartial investigation. But Capalla and company's definition of a thorough and impartial investigation is the kind GMA herself initiates, and truthful findings the kind he and ilk are willing to believe. As far as the first goes, well, there is one thing in common with all the "I will leave no stone unturned" investigations GMA has so far vowed to carry out, which include cheating in elections, the killings of journalists and political activists, and bribery and corruption in government. It's that there's only one bug crawling under all those stones. Guess who.

As far as the second goes, well, there's a local saying that the hardest person to wake up is the one pretending to be asleep. The hardest person to help see things is the one pretending to be blind. You want a thorough and impartial investigation, investigate why Capalla is acting like a toady of the State rather than a prince of the Church.

But infinitely more than that, their concept of governance comes straight from hell. Elsewhere in the democratic world or, never mind democratic, in the reasonably sane world, the concept is not: "A government has a right to exist until its constituents can prove to its satisfaction that it is evil and corrupt." It is: "A government has a right to exist only as it is able to prove to its constituents' satisfaction that it is good and upright." A government's right to exist does not depend on the citizens' ability to prove it wrong, it depends on its ability to prove itself to the citizens right. It is not for public officials to demand that the people show why they should step down, it is for the people to demand that public officials show why they shouldn't.

Japan, South Korea and other Asian countries are not Catholic, for which, given the kind of bishops Mindanao has, they ought to be very thankful. But their public officials know enough morality and ethics or, never mind those big words, enough goodness and decency to resign or commit hara-kiri at the first whiff of scandal. If one of their leaders were to be accused of any, not to speak of all, of the things GMA has done, he would not only disembowel himself, he would torture himself to death slowly to remove every taint of dishonor he has spattered on his family. Here, well, the principle of government Capalla wants to see is *pakapalan*.

They want us to pray for peace in the name of Jesus Christ, the prince of peace? Well, if I recall my Bible, Christ did not turn the other cheek when he saw the merchants in the temple, he flailed at them, shouting: "My temple is a house of prayer, but you have made it into a den of thieves!"

The lesson there is not just that Christ's concept of peace does not preclude anger. It's also that temples can always be turned into dens of thieves.

Albayanons meet climate change challenge head on

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

I WAS IN LEGAZPI CITY RECENTLY TO ATTEND the first National Conference on Climate Change Adaptation organized by Albay's dynamic Gov. Joey Sarte Salceda, and I must congratulate him for the successful undertaking. As he put it, all over the world climate change is no longer being debated. The fact that the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) whose leading lights are Filipino scientists, and former US Vice President Al Gore recently shared the Nobel Peace Prize (and the $150,000 prize money) attests to the world's acceptance of this phenomenon. In fact, the Nobel Prize served as an inspiration for the Albay conference. But what's new in the province's approach is the "adaptation" part as gleaned from its slogan, "Think Global Warming, Act Local Adaptation!" Or as the conference's executive director, Nong Rangasa, put it, "The time for talk is over. The key here is local action."

* * *

Salceda explained that Albay has been identified by the National Disaster Control Center as the most disaster-prone province, and the supertyphoons "Milenyo" and "Reming" and the deadly mud flows from Mayon have been recent grim reminders of this. Thus, he said, Albay has to adapt to this reality and seek to mitigate the disasters that hit it. "Can we Albayanons do something to help ourselves?" he said. "We say yes." From this resolve of the people came the provincial government's adoption of the prototype for local Climate Change Adaptation, known as "Albay in Action on Climate Change" (A2C2). I hope other local government units would emulate A2C2.

* * *

The Legazpi conference drew leaders from various sectors and the national and local governments, led by President Macapagal-Arroyo and Vice President Noli de Castro and several Cabinet members, including Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes, who heads the newly formed Presidential Task Force on Climate Change, and Secretary Heherson Alvarez, who serves as co-chair with Secretary Lito Atienza of the DENR's Advisory Council on Climate Change. In addition, officials of various multilateral and United Nations agencies were also invited to help find funding for specific programs. The conference sought to focus on the various problems that climate change has spawned in the area of upland farming, reforestation, emergency preparedness, coastal communities, etc., as well as areas where constructive responses can make a difference. The end goal was to draft the "Albay Declaration on Climate Change Adaptation," which will, in turn, be presented as part of the Philippine position in the Bali conference in December.

* * *

As in any conference, some highly technical topics in the Legazpi conference such as the "carbon credit market," probably went over the heads of some participants. But what I liked about that conference was that it showed the participants to be concerned about the dangers to our planet and our country of global warming, as they expressed in the open forum. Moreover, many steps adopted were practical and doable, and I will discuss them in future columns. For instance, Salceda has ordered the showing of Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth" in all schools in Albay, so that schoolchildren would be prepared early for the task of saving their province and the planet. Environmental issues have also been incorporated into the curriculum. In addition, the provincial board has passed a number of resolutions aimed at cleaning up the atmosphere, like one calling on the National Power Corp. to sell only clean energy and another discouraging cement factories from using open-burning and asking them to use only rice husks in their kilns.

* * *

Salceda worked very hard to promote this conference, which drew a significant number of participants from as far as Mindanao. He deserves congratulations for his determination to put his province many steps ahead of disaster. One discordant note was that a number of Cabinet members, who were scheduled to speak in the workshops after lunch on the first day, just disappeared and rode back with the President on her plane. It shows how little their commitment to respond to climate change is. Kudos to Reyes and Alvarez who stayed to answer many questions.

* * *

Our deepest condolences to our friends, broadcast journalist Veronica Baluyut-Jimenez of NBN-4 and business executive Lito Jimenez, on the death of their mother, Dometila Pineda Baluyut, widow of lawyer Ricardo Baluyut, last Oct. 21. For the benefit of their relatives in Concepcion, Tarlac, and Ayala Alabang, her remains lie in state at Funeraria Paz in Sucat, Parañaque. Interment will be this Saturday, Oct. 27, after the 10 a.m. Mass.

* * *

Reminders:

- Cinco Angelos, a group of good-looking young male singers with a lot of singing experience abroad, which is dubbed as the local "Il Divo," will stage a concert on Saturday, Oct. 27, at 7 p.m. at Teatrino in Greenhills. The concert will be for the benefit of the Alay sa Kawal Foundation, a non-profit, non-stock foundation set up by professionals to help widows and orphans of ordinary soldiers killed in action, and families of soldiers discharged due to serious disabilities. Help ASK and enjoy the Cinco Angelos' heavenly music.
- Definitely among the great bazaars this Christmas Season is Inner Wheel's "hassle-free" bazaar this Sunday, Oct. 28, at the Grand Ballroom of the Renaissance Hotel (formerly New World Hotel) in Greenbelt, Makati. Through this bazaar, whose theme is "The Best Gifts for Christmas," Inner Wheel hopes to raise funds for its many community, charity and service-oriented projects: feeding indigents, day-care centers, medical-dental missions, scholarships, livelihood training for out-of-school youth and housewives (including computer training, sewing and therapeutic massage), and its convalescence pavilion at the National Center for Mental Health.

Sumilao redux

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

ON A CLEAR DAY IN SUMILAO, BUKIDNON, one can see Mount Kitanglad standing tall in the distance. Nestled between Mount Sayawan and Mount Palaopao, Sumilao is a valley and home to the Higaonon, an indigenous cultural community that lived there before the 1930s, when settlers from distant places began to look upon Mindanao and the new frontier.

The Higaonon believed that Magbabaya the Almighty gave this *balaang yuta* (sacred land) to their forefathers and foremothers. Because of the cool weather and the abundance of pine trees, the people described the place as "pine-tree-hon."

The Higaonon's ancestral land measured 243.8 hectares and served as their seat of government. Here, the Higaonon's tribal council led by Apo Manuagay and Apo Mangganiahon ruled and led through the traditional *paghusay* and *pamuhat*.

In the 1930s, the Higaonons were forcibly evicted from the land which went from one landed non-Higaonon family to another. In the 1970s, the ancestral land was divided between two landowners, the Carloses (99.8 ha) and the Quisumbings (144 ha). (If I remember right the dying Carlos patriarch let go of his share in favor of the farmers.) The Quisumbings eventually leased the land to Del Monte Philippines for 10 years. The Higaonons became farm workers in the land they once owned.

And then the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of 1988 came to be, covering the 144 ha which were for distribution to 137 Mapadayonong Panaghiusa sa mga Lumad Alang sa Damlag (Mapalad) farmers who were of Higaonon ancestry. A Certificate of Land Ownership Award (CLOA) was issued, making the Mapalad farmers owners of the 144 hectares. But this was not to be.

To avoid land reform, the Quisumbings who had possession of the land planned to convert it into an agro-industrial estate and educational complex, park and tourism enclave. The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) put its foot down, but Ruben Torres, then executive secretary of then President Fidel V. Ramos, overturned the decision and approved the land's conversion.

Things came to a head at this juncture. Much had been written, blood had been shed, a lot of intervention had been made. The farmers' long and life-threatening hunger strike in front of the DAR office sparked a lot of interest and sympathy for them. Ramos issued a "win-win solution" which would allot 100 ha for the farmers and 44 ha for the Quisumbings.

Sadly, in 1999, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of the Quisumbings. Ramos' win-win solution was thrown out because of technicalities and the farmers were reduced to mere "recommendee farmer beneficiaries," meaning they have no real interest over the land. No real interest over the land?

Well, after many years, the 144-ha land has not been converted into what its supposed owners had planned; it has been sold to the Cojuangco-owned San Miguel Foods Inc.

This is how things looked recently: The Mapalad-Sumilao farmers and the San Vicente Landless Farmers Association have filed a Petition for the Cancellation of the Conversion Order against the Quisumbings and/or SMFI before the DAR. The farmers argued that more than five years had passed since the conversion order but no development work had been done on the land. They further argued that converting the place into a hog farm would violate the conditions in the conversion order.

Last September, the Higaonon began a campaign to reclaim the land with a *pananghid* ritual. They sought the help of church leaders even while military and police forces descended on their area and raided their multi-purpose center. It's back to square one.

Last Oct. 2, the Office of the President dismissed the farmers' appeal.

This chronicle of events is definitely from the claimants' point of view. I have written about this case a number of times over the years, and I am not afraid to say that I am biased in the farmers' favor.

This is not the end of the farmers' struggle. A "Walk for Sumilao, Walk for Justice" is underway. It's a long road ahead.

* * *

A reader writes to express her disgust over the news coverage of last week's Glorietta mall explosion that killed 11 and injured more than 100. I agree with her views. I have myself been outraged by the way on-the-spot broadcast news coverage and emergency-room journalism are conducted by insensitive journalists.

"Writing you is my way to vent my disappointment over some broadcast journalists over the way they gather 'news.' Please bear with me.

"In the aftermath of the Glorietta explosion, one radio report came from the field and all the guy had to say was: '*Halos hindi makapagsalita ang ina ni* Maureen *sa sinapit ng kanyang anak. Binibigyan na siya ng tubig*...' Then, he popped the question to a relative (I suppose): '*Ano ho ang nararamdaman ninyo*....'

"I mean, can't this guy be a little less idiotic?! I am outraged by the lack of respect people like him in media show to victims and survivors of tragedy. They who rave and rant about censorship, press freedom, etc. are so insensitive as to make a spectacle out of people's inexplicable grief! What about the freedom to privacy? For some members of the media, everything and everyone is fair game so long as they could fill the airwaves, and scream their headlines.

"Pardon my ranting. I should stop here before I begin to sound like them."

* * *

Send feedback to cerespd@info.com.ph

Political leprosy

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

IN LINKING TO MY MARCH 13, 2006 COLUMN, "Managing expectations," I summarized it as follows: What defenders of the President or defenders of keeping her where she is are [actually doing are] defending Civilization As We Know It. Appearances are everything; and unless the President suddenly develops leprosy, she will appeal to the keep-up appearances mentality.

I was reminded of my column by Conrado de Quiros' bringing up a snap election as the cleanest, neatest, most democratic solution to the problem of legitimacy. I'd swung around to agreeing with De Quiros which is why in March 2006, I said a broad consensus existed which saw some sort of presidential election as the best solution.

But I also pointed out that one major obstacle to consider was that there was also a sizeable, and stubborn, part of the electorate that sees the President not as an aberration to, but the exemplar of, our society's values.

At the time I quoted a media colleague who observed, "If you have a President who lies, cheats and steals, it makes life easy for everybody, because now everyone can lie, cheat and steal with a clear conscience." Machiavelli's advice, I said back in 2006, showed why the President can be tolerated while her predecessor ended up despised: "For this reason a prince ought to take care that he never lets anything slip from his lips that is not replete with the above-named five qualities, that he may appear to him who sees and hears him altogether merciful, faithful, humane, upright, and religious."

Indeed Machiavelli could have been comparing Estrada to Arroyo when he wrote, "It is wiser to have a reputation for meanness which brings reproach without hatred, than to be compelled through seeking a reputation for liberality to incur a name for rapacity which begets reproach with hatred." Except that the President has shown herself far from being tight-fisted, or mean, in the old-fashioned use of the word, and instead, she's acquired the reputation for being exceedingly liberal with public funds, and the acquisition of those funds, which, as Machiavelli warned, "begets reproach with hatred."

This is why, as the INQUIRER editorial the other day pointedly put it, the President operating a cash bar complete with doggie bags for her political pets has so soured the public mood. Even traditional politicians allied with the President were shocked, though dismayed may be a more appropriate description of their feelings. Their feelings of dismay have been building up since the May elections, when they slowly began to realize their gambling on the status quo has had the opposite effect they intended. They thought that sticking by the President would somehow ensure stability; instead, it hastened the mutation of traditional politics to an extent that has begun to frighten the traditional politicians.

Their fear has nothing to do with idealism and everything to do with an increasingly troubling reality. A President who sees cash as the solution to all problems creates a larger problem: each time cash is presented as a solution, the next problem will require even more cash; and even if the President leaves the scene, the landscape has been permanently altered by her promiscuity when it comes to handing out cash. Politicians expect that even when cash can solve a problem, eloquence and appeals to the public can solve problems, too. But if the only solution is cash, then politics is reduced to an auction.

A glib tongue and hair-raising speechifying, the things that foster the illusion that leaders and followers are engaged in more than extortion, can't be utilized anymore. This is where her political allies find themselves, now. Leaders thought that in league with the President, their cash bar governance was building genuine support; instead, they are beginning to see that what they have built is a political culture where it doesn't matter what you say, only what you are willing to pay. Having desensitized the public, they can never recover the use of eloquence as an antidote to the public's appetite for motivational bribes. Every politician is a student of power; and the lesson here is that they are in a trap of their own making.

Should the public decide that it prefers genuine leadership to leaders who bribe their constituents, it has to turn to new leaders. Money may make the world go round, but even a beggar for favors has pride. The difference is between handing out cash to a beggar, and throwing the money into a gutter and breezily telling the beggar to fish the money out of the slime. This is the fine line the President and her people have crossed.

Unmerciful when it comes to her critics, unfaithful to her allies, inhumane in that compassion is her least defining characteristic as a leader, dishonorable instead of upright in how she wields the law or manages the bureaucracy and the military, and a pious hypocrite instead of being genuinely religious as shown by her cultivating bishops as if they were congressmen in cassocks, the President has lost the appearance of virtue which was the bedrock of her continued claim to position.

A foreign journalist recently asked me if the present revelations, from the poaching of the Speaker's sphere of influence to the sight of congressmen waddling out of the Palace with doggie bags of cash to governors falling over themselves trying to explain their doggie bags, too, were worse than the allegations of electoral manipulation. Yes, I said, not because I think so, but because the public obviously thinks so.

The President can clutch at economic statistics as if they were so many straws, but it has begun to dawn on the public that a nation kept afloat by remittances now sees those remittances shrinking in value, and salaries abroad shrinking in turn, and a vicious cycle is in place to which the President has no answers except a dogged insistence on dirty deals.

My parents' child

YOUNG BLOOD

Krupskaya Medel Añonuevo

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO, MY QUESTION OF THE DAY for my Psychology 101 classes was: "What do you admire most about your parents?"

I was unexpectedly touched by my students' answers, especially those mentioning how patient and loving their parents are to them, how sweet they are to each other, and how strong their marital bond is. I realized that I cherished such answers precisely because I haven't experienced them myself. My parents have never been my main support group or my cheerleaders or my biggest fans. Their marriage is no walk in the park either. In fact, even if theirs is an enduring love and partnership, it is also wrought with complications and drama (including tense, almost surreal, family meetings).

In other words, our home has never been a sanctuary—our house on Calla Lily Street as a shelter from the world's harshness exists only in my wildest dreams.

Papa's voice used to startle me; his anticipated criticisms intimidated me. I also couldn't understand his silence although my desire to be able to get through that silence died only when he did.

As for Mama, she has never been an "earth mother" who cooks one's favorite meals or a ready source of soothing words for a child in pain. Actually, she can be tactless (to the point of being searing) when she gives advice, often making me shake my head and say, "Why did I ask her in the first place?"

Instead of being a forthcoming father and a nurturing mother, my parents were something else.

Almost a year ago, as we were on our way to our annual Christmas celebration with the Añonuevos, Mama told us about her charm bracelet and how it protected her from bad vibes/evil spirits. The logic of her claim was lost on me, so I chuckled and said that it didn't make sense to me that a bracelet would have such power. Papa smiled, and I interpreted it as full agreement with what I said.

My differences from Papa were always more salient to me, but I now realize that my firm belief in empiricism and my attempts to exercise rigor in the academe and in everyday life came from him, not from Mama. Papa always set high standards—for himself and for others. I remember that as a child, I saw many scary red marks on students' bluebooks. Mama and Papa's friends still recount to this day how Papa lamented his students' poor English. Despite this, Papa actually had a laissez faire philosophy in raising us: we could do what we wanted to do and he only had to be informed of these choices.

Conversely, my similarities to Mama have always been more obvious than our differences. Many people say I remind them so much of my mother. My lolo (Mama's daddy) himself once mistook me for my mother as I entered his home. Yes, my mother and I are two peas in a pod: we look the same, have similar gestures and the same passion for books and for learning. But we have many differences, too. Her fascination with charm bracelets and such is the most glaring one. Another is that I am not as impulsive and energetic as she is. While I also like exploring the world and experiencing other places and other cultures, I am less spontaneous and more reserved in my curiosity and drive.

Finally, a little note on one similarity between my parents: Both were social scientists who weren't trapped in an ivory tower. They not only taught economics and sociology, they were (and Mama still is) also dedicated to social change. In other words, their NGO, government and even international work always involved empowering others and cultivating better communities and societies. For them, the personal is the social is the political. Even my birth was framed by Papa as "*bunga ng tunggalian at kaisahan, tunggalian at kaisahan dala ng pagmamahal sa isa't-isa at sa sambayanan.*"

What does this mean? That I have an unshakable "nationalistic-activist" (instead of Catholic) guilt! I have often thought about working in a publishing house in Europe and living a life of serenity and beauty (Oh, oh! The trees, the cultural events, the wonderfully temperate climate!), but until now, I cannot silence the voice in my head that tells me leaving my country is a form of betrayal. This also means that I am easily moved to tears when I hear discussion about what Filipinos can do for the Philippines.

My parents didn't give me hugs. Neither did they give me endless encouragement whenever I failed. They didn't hold my hand when I was recovering from a break-up or middle-class guilt (which is not entirely similar to the other type of guilt I mentioned, although they have points of intersection). They never told me what to do (except for my mother's explicit, "Stay and teach in UP. You owe it to the taxpayers who financed your UP education!"). Nope, no plainly- stated pearls of wisdom from Mama and Papa (another exception: Mama's "*Huwag ka na lang mag-asawa.*").

Instead they gave me an independent mind-set, an intelligent and inquiring mind to go with it, and an idealism that I am having difficulty shaking off. Not the usual gifts one would get from parents, I suppose, but I am a grateful daughter. What they have given me weren't what I originally wanted, but I treasure what they have passed on to me and take heart in the knowledge that I am truly my parents' child.

Krupskaya Medel Añonuevo, 27, teaches Psychology at the University of the Philippines in Diliman. Being a fan of Evolutionary Psychology, she believes that her similarities to her parents, though partly environmental, are largely genetic.

IN THE NEWS

Gov. Eddie Panlilio

What if gov didn't take cash gift?

THOSE WHO ARE SAYING THAT Among Ed (Pampanga's Gov. Ed Panlilio) did wrong in accepting the bundle of cash (P500,000), given to him in Malacañang last Oct. 11, do not see what could have been the scenario had he refused to receive the money.

Imagine the complexion of the scandal had he refused to accept the money and somebody else blew the whistle? How would he convince the people that he was not similarly given? How would he make everybody believe him? I myself would have doubted his words.

When Among Ed accepted the money, I believe there was divine intervention. His act was guided by the Holy Spirit.

Many of our leaders, past and present, may have been or may be endowed with the greatness of Nebuchadnezzar; some, with the authoritative power of Pilate; others with the arrogance of Herod. But Among Ed, I believe, has been endowed with the simplicity of John the Baptist, the obedience of Abraham, the courage of Moses, the faith of Mary and, on that occasion, the wisdom of Solomon.

To the noisy ones who think that he did wrong, here are some questions: What would you have rather done in that same situation? How would you have handled it?

—NOEL D. UNSON, whirlpoolheart501@yahoo.com

A mite for widow of heroic Samar policeman

ON SEPT. 17, 2009, THE INQUIRER published the plea of Nelita Diocampo, widow of P/Cpl. Tirso Diocampo, who was killed in 1984 defending the police station of MacArthur, Eastern Samar against an NPA attack. For 23 long years, she pleaded for compassion from the Government Service Insurance System in its relentless pursuit for payment of the housing loan she inherited from her late husband. This loan had ballooned to around P239,000 from the original amount of about P42,000.

She felt that if her husband paid for his life in defense of his country, the least his country could do for her and her children, was to condone his GSIS housing loan. The loss of her husband caused her and her children untold grief, suffering and hardship. In fact, one of her children died because she could not afford the medical treatment needed. But instead of extending a compassionate hand, our government, through the GSIS, has added—and continues to add—to this grief, suffering and hardship, by its relentless demand of exacting its pound of flesh from her in the payment of her inherited housing loan debt, despite repeated pleas and letters from her.

The GSIS replied in a letter, which the INQUIRER also published in its Sept. 24 issue, that it had magnanimously restructured the Diocampo loan ... 21 years after the policeman's death! But it skirted the issue of condonation and gleefully mentioned that Mrs. Diocampo had made partial payment on Sept. 24 to avoid loan cancellation. It likewise stood pat on its stand to exact that pound of flesh—albeit in a slow and agonizing way—through its so-called debt-restructuring.

Perhaps, the GSIS should know that Diocampo had to borrow money to be able to make that partial payment. Perhaps, it should also know that in defense of his country, the gallant Police Corporal Diocampo sustained bullet wounds that measured .60 inches in diameter at entry point on the right neck and shoulder, with a bullet trajectory that plowed through his right lung, heart, left lung, and blasted an .80-inch hole exit on his left side, causing instant death. (1984 Autopsy Report of Dr. Manuel B. Japson) And finally, perhaps, it should realize that it may also be doing the equivalent damage to his widow and children by its strict insistence in exacting from them that pound of flesh, as it were. The death of one of her children indicates this.

The GSIS spends hundreds of thousands in its self-serving ads proclaiming its accomplishments, and millions more in acquiring valuable paintings and artwork. Can it not spare a mite from its billions for a hero's widow and her children?

—SAMUEL J. YAP, 118 Granada, San Antonio Heights, Sto. Tomas, Batangas

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LETTERS

Who says economy has turned around?

AS NOTED BEFORE, THE NOODLE and rice program of President Macapagal-Arroyo would fail to solve the hunger problem. The SWS surveys last November 2006 and February 2007 showed 19 percent of our population lived in hunger.

It was suggested then that a livelihood program be introduced to alleviate the sufferings of the poor of our society. Sen. Mar Roxas also said that the noodle and rice program was a temporary solution that would not solve the chronic and grave ills plaguing the country even as our peso strengthened against the US dollar. (INQUIRER, 1/26/06)

SWS' latest surveys showed that 21.5 percent of the population experienced hunger in the past three months—a record high of 3.8 million families. This latest finding belies the claim of our economic managers that our economy has been moving up. (INQUIRER, 10/2/07) Unless the government embarks on a massive drive to increase agricultural production hand in hand with industrialization that would stop the exodus of our professionals to foreign countries, the government cannot say that our economy has turned around. A stronger peso does not necessarily mean an improved economy since it hurts the overseas Filipino workers and the exporters.

With our gargantuan external debts and with our country's propensity for borrowing from foreign countries, I am afraid that the government would burden honest taxpayers more with higher taxes while letting go of tax cheats and corrupt officials.

Quo vadis, Philippines?

—GODOFREDO O. PETEZA SR., Barangay Camambugan, Daet, Camarines Norte 4600

No way to handle stray dogs

MY HUSBAND AND I SPENT TWO and a half weeks in Boracay, getting to know the locals and their lifestyle, and enjoying every minute of it. We met so many wonderful people who treated us with kindness.

We are Americans. After reading the reactions to Hollywood's and American TV's stereotypical attitude toward Filipinos and the Philippines, I can personally say that not all Americans have that same attitude. We were prepared to tell all the wonderful stories about the warm and hospitable Filipinos. Until the last day of our stay in Boracay, a couple of hours before we were to leave for the airport.

We were having breakfast in our favorite beach-front restaurant. A new friend, a young vendor (I will omit his name for his own interests) greeted us. He was with his dog and was setting up for business that day. He gave us a big smile and said, "I hope you will come back to my country again soon."

We told him, "We hope to return soon," as we thanked him.

He left to get something and up pulled a van marked "Rescue" and "Coast Guard" on the side. A man with a stick with a wire noose attached walked alongside the van. What I saw after that, I could not believe. The man and a companion seized the dog, and flung it like a rag doll into the truck, slamming it against the siding. I'll never forget the pained, shrill cries of the dog.

I rushed to the man and told him that I knew the dog's owner. He looked at me, shook his head, and looked away. They went after another dog with a collar.

If they handle dogs like this in public, what happens in private? I shuddered at the thought.

So brutal and inhumane a sight, we could watch and protest no longer.

I understand dogcatchers are necessary; they are found all over the world. But I'm certain that dogcatchers in other countries would have been shocked if they had seen what we saw.

Why not embark on a "spaying or castration program"? Instead of hiring three men to pick up and abuse animals, the money being paid for their salaries can be used to neuter dogs.

Will we go back to the Philippines? No way. If a nation wants to be respected, it must treat all of its citizens, human and otherwise, with respect. What we saw today was a barbaric and unjust act. It tarnished our impression of the Philippines. I am ashamed for Boracay. I am saddened for the dogs that will suffer the same fate as the ones we saw that day.

—KRISTIANA SPAULDING, tianatrow@yahoo.com

Nothing wrong, not surprising

ENVIRONMENT SECRETARY LITO Atienza admitted that he received from Malacañang cash gifts ranging from P100,000 to P200,000 throughout his nine years as mayor of Manila. Nothing wrong with that, he said. (INQUIRER, 10/17/07)

Our environment secretary believes that "there was no cause for the public to raise a howl over the supposed distribution of money in Malacañang on Oct. 11." And Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo wonders why the Philippines is on top of the list of the most corrupt countries?

God save us.

—ELLA RAMOS, ella.ramos68@yahoo.com

SHIP report shared with various stakeholders

THE BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS (BAS) would like to expound on some of the points raised by Dr. Mahar Mangahas in his column "A new hunger record." (INQUIRER, 10/6/07)

In the middle of 2006, the government was faced with the challenge of addressing the problem of hunger which was reported to be felt by a significant number of households throughout the country. The survey of Social Weather Stations at that time placed the incidence of hunger at 13.9 percent at the national level, broken down as follows: 15 percent in the National Capital Region (NCR), 10 percent in the rest of Luzon, 19.7 percent in the Visayas and 17.3 percent in Mindanao.

It was obvious that a comprehensive government program on hunger mitigation would need information on who were going hungry, where they were situated, the main causes of hunger and what they perceived were the necessary measures to mitigate hunger. The mitigation measures needed to be site- and sector-specific. The information available at that time, however, was inadequate in this respect; to be more specific, locating the hungry down to the provincial level was not possible.

The BAS conducted the Survey of Hunger in the Philippines (SHIP) in response to the need of the Department of Agriculture for information more detailed than those available from other sources. It sought to determine the incidence of hunger for domains smaller than that of SWS (78 provinces, two chartered cities, and four districts in the NCR).

The survey was conducted in August 2006. The major output tables were made available in October 2006 and the final report with complete set of tables, in January 2007. These reports were shared with the DA and other users such as the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) and the Inter-Agency Task Force on the Development of Hunger Index which is lodged at the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB).

We would like to dispel any notion that the SHIP was a confidential or a secret operation. It was conducted for a very specific purpose. The results have in fact been used for the intended purpose: in conjunction with other available information, to provide bases for the DA's hunger mitigation programs.

Neither were the results suppressed or hidden. These were shared with all parties whose interests in the results coincided with the original purpose of the survey.

The DA has a continuing hunger mitigation program on the ground. This program was designed so that the strategies and measures for mitigating hunger are balanced with other related concerns, e.g., poverty alleviation, employment generation, reducing food insecurity, broadening of production base and improving the marketing of agricultural products.

—ROMEO S. RECIDE, director, Bureau of Agricultural Statistics, Department of Agriculture, Ben-Lor Bldg., Quezon Avenue, QC

A rejoinder to Joker's 'deliberate falsehood'

IN HIS COMMENTARY TITLED "WHY, WHO IS going after the INQUIRER?" Sen. Joker Arroyo depicted the INQUIRER as paranoid in responding to dangers that are imagined and preparing for enemies that "are not there." (INQUIRER, 10/8/07) He said no one is going after the Inquirer. The Senate is investigating its senators, not the INQUIRER, Arroyo said.

While the senator assured the INQUIRER that it has nothing to fear from the Senate, he never denied threatening reporter Juliet Labog-Javellana with contempt during a privilege speech. Nay, he did not deny daring the INQUIRER to waive the protection of Republic Act 53 as amended.

The senator's privilege speech has a stifling effect on media. Journalists and human rights lawyers cannot really be blamed for closing ranks in protecting press freedom. Vigilance is a virtue, not a vice. It is the people's effective weapon against abuse of power.

That is the point that the senator has totally missed. The people cannot take chances in the preservation of a free press. Such a zealous regard for liberty is what limits the powerful. It reminds senators not to push their luck too far. Had the news articles and editorials in reaction to the senator's privilege speech not been printed, would he have gone so far as to dissociate the Senate and himself from the threats "perceived" against the INQUIRER?

Joker not only missed the point, he likewise committed deliberate falsehood. He said the INQUIRER grasped at the "off-tangent straw thrown" by a lawyer who has an "axe to grind against the Senate" because he "was barred from attending any Senate committee hearings" for "unruly behavior and improper knowledge."

The lawyer's straw is off-tangent only in the point of view of an oblique mind. That lawyer has no axe to grind against the Senate. He has maintained his respect for the Senate as an institution—regardless of the profiles and reputations (altered reputation included) of most of its members.

That lawyer was not "barred from attending any Senate committee hearings." He was barred from attending hearings of only four out of 36 committees. The resolution barring him was not signed by six senators. Thus, he appeared many times before other Senate committees, including the one investigating the Bolante fertilizer scam. But why even bring that up as a motive when the lawyer is now free to attend any hearing at the Senate, the four Senate committees' resolution barring him having become functus officio?

"Unruly behavior"? Why focus on reactive behavior when the query should be on the provocative conduct of a member of the Senate who, acting like a monarch, treated a resource person as if she were his lowly subject? But then why question the obvious tolerance by the senator of the snooty and condescending behavior of his colleague? After all, they are both honorable men like members of the Senate in Caesar's time.

"Improper knowledge"? That lawyer seems to have forgotten more law than what most honorable members of the Senate may learn for the rest of their remaining years.

—FRANK CHAVEZ, 117 Gamboa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City

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Libya offers to host talks with MILF

COTABATO CITY—LIBYA HAS OFFERED TO HOST peace negotiations between the Philippine government and the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Libyan President Moammar Gadaffi was influential in the decision of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) to sign a peace agreement with the government in 1996.

Ambassador's message

Eid Kabalu, MILF civil-military relations chief, said Libya's desire to host the peace negotiations was relayed to them by former Libyan Ambassador to the Philippines Salem Adem.

Kabalu said Adem also told MILF leaders during a meeting yesterday that Saif Al-Islam Gaddafi, said to be his father's successor, wanted to meet Mindanao leaders in a bid to consolidate efforts that would lead to a peace agreement.

"He wanted the meeting through the facilitation of the MILF to happen before the year ends. Of course, it will be closely coordinated with the government," Kabalu told the INQUIRER.

Impatience

The government is becoming impatient too at the pace the peace process with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) is moving, a Malacañang official said yesterday.

Earlier, the MILF said it is becoming edgy because of what it sees as government-instigated delays hounding the resumption of the peace talks.

"If the MILF and other stakeholders were impatient, the government is more so because the problem on peace and order is basic to development," Secretary Jesus Dureza, presidential adviser on the peace process, said in an interview with radio station dxMS here.

Best efforts

But Dureza said the government was trying its best to forge a final peace deal with the rebels and that the only way to achieve this is through negotiations.

He also said that the help of every Filipino is needed so that peace would eventually be achieved on the island.

"The peace negotiations are everybody's concern, your concern, my concern, our concern because we are the stakeholders," Dureza said.

Government and MILF negotiators have resumed their executive meeting in Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday, in a bid to break the deadlock in the negotiations.

KL meeting

The deadlock was caused by disagreements over the issue on territory, with the MILF insisting on the inclusion of at least 1000 villages in the Bangsamoro Juridical Entity (BJE) without preconditions.

The government is steadfast on its position that only about 600 villages could be provisionally included in the discussion for territory.

The government also said that the final composition of the territory would depend on the outcome of a plebiscite to be called for that purpose.

"I'm optimistic they will be able to hurdle some of the contentious issues so we can resume formal talks," Dureza said.

Deal with MNLF

The 1996 peace agreement with the MNLF led to the forming of the Southern Philippines Development Authority (SPDA) and the assumption into office by MNLF chair Nur Misuari as governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Edwin Fernandez, Charlie Señase and Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao

500 families flee homes as soldiers, NPAs clash

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—AT LEAST 500 families from a mountain village in Calatrava, Negros Occidental fled their homes in the wake of clashes between the military and communist rebels.

The families, who feared getting caught in the crossfire, have evacuated to the town proper and have been given shelter by the municipal government, according to provincial social welfare officer Liane Garcia.

The gunfights had been going on since Monday, after suspected rebels ambushed and wounded two members of a patrol team of soldiers.

Calatrava Mayor Alfonso Baguio Jr. said some 3,000 residents of Barangays Macasilao, Hilub-ang and Cruz evacuated after the rebel ambush on government soldiers on Monday.

Most of the evacuees came from Barangay Hilub-ang (2,288 persons) while the rest came from Macasilao (500 persons) and Cruz (143 persons).

Baguio said food assistance had been provided to the evacuees who started arriving in the town center on Monday afternoon.

Early Tuesday, soldiers and suspected rebels engaged in a 15-minute gun battle in the boundary of Barangays Macasilao and Menchaca, said Maj. Nathaniel Villasor, 303rd Infantry Brigade Civil Military Operations chief.

Villasor said soldiers received reports that two female rebels were killed during the clash but their comrades brought along their bodies.

SETTLEMENT DENNIS JAY SANTOS/INQUIRER MINDANAO

Because of increasing prices of land and lack of opportunities in the rural areas, landless Filipinos opted to build their shacks along seashores in urban areas, like this one in Piapi Boulevard, Davao City.

Mindanao railway plan revived in talks

DAVAO CITY—THE IDEA TO put up a Mindanao railway system was revived anew here with a foreign company expressing interest to pour in funds to help finance the project.

The Mindanao railway system has long been a dream among Mindanao officials but the idea failed to take-off even with the aggressive support of then Sen. Santanina Rasul.

But on Tuesday, during the continuation of the East Asean Growth Area (EAGA) Investment Conference here, London-based MCC Capital Projects Ltd. expressed interest to start a feasibility study on the Mindanao railway system.

EAGA is an economic grouping involving Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines.

Break

Antonio Santos, BIMP-EAGA Business Council (BEBC) chair, said in his report to the BIMP-EAGA 15th Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) that formally opened Tuesday at the Marco Polo Hotel here that the idea was already discussed between him and Faisal Kasim, MCC chief executive officer.

Santos said Mindanao Business Council (MinBC) chair Vicente Lao was also present during the discussion that centered on the mechanisms of the proposal.

Closer to goal

Santos said Lao has proposed that the project will be undertaken under a build-operate-transfer (BOT) scheme but Kasim expressed preference for joint-venture agreements with local government units (LGUs).

Under Kasim's proposal, LGUs would put up 60 percent of the funds needed for the construction of the railway system while his company will take charge of the remaining 40 percent.

Santos said Kasim also suggested that to make things easier, LGUs could form a corporation.

While LGUs have yet to commit, Santos said MCC was expecting to conduct a study on the project by next month.

Aside from the railway project, Santos also reported that at least 20 possible partnerships between EAGA members have been discussed.

These included property development—including housing development projects, joint ventures in mining projects, biodiesel and seafood processing. *Judy Quiros, Inquirer Mindanao*

RP corals hurting from effects of global warming

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
Inquirer Northern Luzon

ALAMINOS CITY—THE COUNTRY's coral beds may be underwater but they are not immune from the effects of global warming, a scientist who pioneered the study of corals in the Philippines warned.

Dr. Edgardo Gomez, the founding director of the University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute, said the country's corals are already under threat from bleaching and illegal fishing, but ocean "acidification" caused by excessive carbon dioxide in the atmosphere (which also causes global warming) is a more "serious concern."

Acidic water

"Carbon dioxide in the atmosphere eventually finds its way to and dissolves in the oceans, causing the water to become 'acidic'... reducing the ability of the coral reefs to deposit calcium carbonate or calcify," Gomez said.

This causes the calcium carbonate (which coral polyps use to build protective structures around them) to become weaker and susceptible to scratches and erosion.

Gomez said when this happens, predators, like the parrot fish, will have easier time to eat the polyps and embedded algae in the coral.

Gomez is chair of the Southeast Asia/Philippines Center of Excellence of the Global Environment Facility and World Bank Coral Reef Targeted Research and Capacity Building for Management Program. He was guest during a recent conference here on coastal governance, where the status of coral reefs in the Lingayen Gulf and Zambales was discussed.

Death in the sea

He said as the ocean becomes more acidic, the corals would stop growing and eventually disintegrate.

The acidification of the ocean would affect not only corals but other sea shells and mollusks as well, he said.

The present pH level (measure of acidity) of oceans in the world is slightly below 8.3, which, Gomez said, is the normal level. He said corals might start to dissolve when the pH level drops below 8.

Gomez, who has been studying corals since 1976, said the problem is not yet manifest but at the rate the emission of greenhouse gases, particularly of carbon dioxide, is increasing in the atmosphere, acidification of the world's oceans will be a big problem after 50 years.

Carbon rising

He said a number of scientific papers showed that there was a steep slope in the rate of increase of atmospheric carbon dioxide in the past several years.

He said the amount of carbon dioxide in the ocean was about 220 parts per million (ppm) 200 years ago.

It is now 400 ppm and was projected to reach 500 ppm at the end of the century.

He said the acidification may be gradual but will happen simultaneously all over the world.

Woman US Army exec unaware of dad's coup role

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CAPAS, TARLAC—UNTIL NOW, Lt. Ayessa Toler of the United States Navy does not know why her father, Lt. Col. Tiburcio Fusilero, joined the failed coup against then President Corazon Aquino led by his classmate, then Col. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, in 1987 and 1989.

What Toler, who was born in the Philippines, knows is her father continues to ground her to her roots, the reason she says she enjoys organizing the medical missions for the Amphibious Landing Exercise (Phiblex) here for the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the US military.

17-year absence

This is the first time that Toler, 28, returned to the Philippines since leaving to study in the United States in December 1990.

Of her father's involvement in moves to overthrow the administration of former President Corazon Aquino, she said: "I don't remember what was going on. I was too young to understand. I really don't know."

Despite that and the distance, she said: "I love my dad very much."

Busy schedule

Toler said she has yet to visit her father or call him in Cebu City because she has been preoccupied with overseeing the two-day medical and dental missions in the upland village of Sta. Juliana here.

"There's so much work to do around here. I feel really happy being here, of going back to my roots and helping out here. I love the kids," Toler said.

She spoke warmly with Aeta children, asking them in Filipino how their medical or dental examinations or their parents' requests for medicines had been.

All in the family

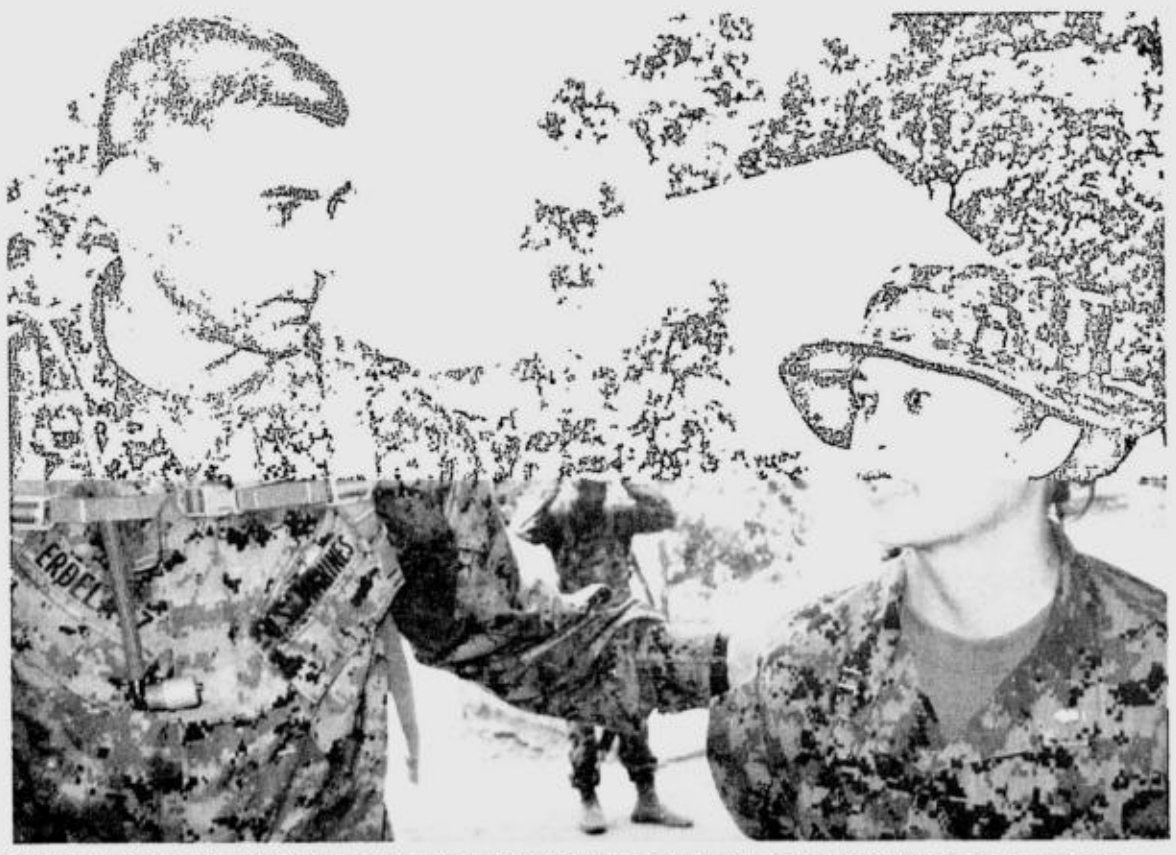
The villagers sought her out for inquiries. Some 1,000 residents have been assisted during the two days, she said.

Toler is planning similar missions in villages around Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija, another venue of the Phiblex.

She entered the US Navy in 2003, saying she joined the organization because a military life was a "family tradition."

Aside from her father's involvement in the military, her mother is a military nurse and her brother is with the Philippine Army.

Toler's husband is a lieutenant in the US Navy.



US LT. AYESSA Toler talks with a US Army officer during a break in military exercises in Aeta villages. Toler is daughter of one of the plotters of two failed coups against former President Corazon Aquino.

TONETTE OREJAS/INQUIRER CENTRAL LUZON

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Gender equality in scouts jamboree

By Niña Catherine Calleja
Los Baños, Laguna

DESPITE INTERMITTENT RAINS, the Boy Scouts of the Philippines (BSP) kicked off its 14th National Jamboree on Oct. 23 with fun and "learning-by-doing" activities, which incorporate lessons ranging from public governance to making of handicraft specialties from different regions.

At least 17,000 boys and senior scouts from all over the country are participating in the five-day event. They have put up tents at the 54-hectare campsite at the Philippine Scouting Center for Asia-Pacific Region in the 1,100-meter Mt. Makiling.

The BSP is the largest uniformed youth organization in the country and the third largest in the world with a membership of 2.7 million.

Female young scouts, called the Roverettes and numbering over 100, and senior scoutmasters have joined the boys in the "extreme challenges," such as elephant walk, net wall crossing, rope tunnel, spider web and swinging rubber tire.

SCOUTS, both girls and boys, participate in the 14th National Jamboree in Mt. Makiling in Laguna. PHOTOS BY NIÑA CATHERINE CALLEJA

Female scouts

The inclusion of the female scouts is in line with the scouts' aim of gender equality, said Bobby Manzano, BSP public relations committee chair.

"Some girls are really interested in what the boy scouts are doing," Manzano said. The BSP is responsible for protecting the female scouts, he said.

Manzano said the scouts were taught outdoor skills, such as survival cooking, water gathering, and map and compass reading.

"Fun and adventure activities are just vehicles for the leadership skills and moral values of the young boys," he said, stressing that the BSP had been improving the quality of the scouting program.

In the "learning by doing" activity, 10 booths have been set up to accommodate an average of 1,000 scouts per booth and engaged in learning a particular lesson.

Local councils coming from 10 regions give lessons on how to make bracelets and necklaces out of decorative knots, arrange plastic flowers and plants, and assemble a cooking burner. Ernesto Baluyot, BSP camp director, said the lessons aimed to showcase the specialties of the regions and make these byproducts available to the participants.

Manzano said the activity would test how effectively the scouts could transfer their skills to other people.

The activities are in line with the theme, "Isang Mundo, Isang Pangako (One World, One Promise)," with the scouts expected to overcome barriers of differing cultures, creeds and ideologies.

While some boys were engaged in handicrafts, 23 scouts were having a small-group forum dubbed "Kapehan sa Jamboree." They discussed pressing issues and their community involvement and responsibilities.

John Carlo Reyes, who is from Laguna, said being a scout was not just wearing the uniform but applying values and skills in interacting with people and helping the community.

Another scout from Valenzuela City, John Carlo Zabala, said that by joining the Governance Camp, he was exposed to issues of graft and corruption in the country. A high school student, Zabala has volunteered to join anticorruption groups.

BRUCE Willis Sing shows his medal to the media upon arrival at the Naia 2. Sing was voted Most Outstanding Boy Scout of the Asia-Pacific held in Tokyo, Japan on Oct. 18-20, 2007. JESS YUSON

"LEARN by doing" handicrafts is among the lessons being taught in the five-day scouts jamboree.

"Being a boy scout is living up to the duties of a good citizen," he said.

The Governance Camp is a project established by the Ten Outstanding Boy Scouts of the Philippines Association (Tobspa) in 2005. It aims to involve the youth in campaigns against graft and corruption.

On Friday, the BSP will choose the Ten Outstanding Boy Scouts of the Philippines from among 26 finalists from different regions.

Historical lighthouse in Calatagan needs rehabilitation

By Marlon Alexander Luistro
Calatagan, Batangas

IN THE EARLY DAYS OF MARITIME travel, the lighthouse of Cape Santiago safely guided international shipping vessels crossing the Verde Island Passage, San Bernardino Strait and Manila Bay.

Also known as the Faro de Punta Santiago, the 51-foot tower on a cliff was established by the Spanish authorities in the 1890s, which modeled it after the medieval castles in Europe.

Old-timers believe that Cape Santiago was used as a Japanese camp during World War II. It had an underground tunnel that led straight to the sea.

Made of bricks and lime cement, the red structure has withstood earthquakes, typhoons and other natural calamities, including the ravages of the Filipino-Spanish, Filipino-American and Filipino-Japanese wars.

Today, however, the lighthouse is no longer open to the public. No roads lead to it since the adjacent lands are now privately owned. Its state of neglect and dilapidation has prompted the Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary (PCGA) to restore it to its original design.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary wants to promote the Cape Santiago Lighthouse as a 'cultural center'

Guide

"The lighthouse is the oldest remaining structure in Calatagan today. Aside from promotion as tourism site, Cape Santiago will be a perfect gift to the town's centennial celebration in 2011," said Ltsg. Derrick Manas of the 501st PCGA Squadron, who heads the Task Force Lighthouse.

The PCGA wants to promote Cape Santiago as the "cultural center of Calatagan," where people can hold concerts, beauty pageants, graduations, stage plays, photography and painting sessions, and other events.

Its squadron also plans to transfer its headquarters to the lighthouse.

THE CAPE Santiago Lighthouse, also known as Faro de Punta Santiago, in Calatagan, Batangas, is now deteriorating. Efforts to restore the structure are under way. MARLON ALEXANDER LUISTRO

Lighthouses are not only popular tourist attractions though. They also serve as compass for vessels in the high seas. Usually, they are found along shallow coastal areas.

"When the US captured the Philippines from Spain in 1898, the Americans inherited close to 60 lighthouses and minor lights built by the Spanish colonial authorities," said American author Russ Rowlett in an article that appeared in the University of North Carolina website.

While many of the major Spanish lighthouses have survived and still in service, others have been ruined, Rowlett said. The website listed 27 major lighthouses in the Philippines, including the Pulo Caballo in Corregidor, Siete Pecados in Panay, and Cape Bojeador in Ilocos Norte.

In Batangas, there are Cape Santiago in Calatagan and Cape Malabrigo in Lobo.

Like old churches and houses, Manas said, Cape Santiago has long been abandoned. Nobody maintained and preserved its natural beauty. Its original light source is missing; an automatic light bulb donated by the Japan International Cooperation Agency switches on at sunset and off at sunrise.

The light device on top of the tower, reached by a long, winding flight of stairs, is no longer being used because it is very costly to operate it, Manas said.

On April 18, 1995, the PCG, under then Commodore Arturo Capada, signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with former Batangas Gov. Jose Antonio Leviste, president of the Resort Association of the Philippines Inc. (Rapi), to develop Cape Santiago as a tourism site.

But the group has failed to do its task for the past 12 years and even reclaimed sea portions "unauthorized by the MOU," Manas said. An internal report issued by then PCG Capt. Alejandro Flora on June 23, 2003 said Rapi had reclaimed "more or less 9,000 square meters of sea area adjacent to the Cape Santiago Lighthouse."

Flora said the MOU only authorized Rapi to "improve the existing building and develop landscape the surrounding areas."

Undeveloped

Jessie de los Reyes, chair of the Calatagan Municipal Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council, claimed that the reclamation covered at least 1.8 hectares of sea grass beds and coral reefs, which reportedly drove away fish and other marine creatures.

The project not only affected the rich coastal resources in the area but also deprived some 300 families of their earnings from gathering sea shells and shrimps, he said.

"What really hurts is that the lighthouse was not restored but renovated. Too many alterations happened. Some of its antiques, particularly bronzes, are gone and the woods were replaced with cement," he added.

The PCG plans to terminate the contract with Rapi, Commodore Darwin Torres, PCGA commander, said in a phone interview. "We're on top of it," he said.

On Aug. 5, the barangay council of Bagong Silang in Calatagan issued Resolution No. 14 regarding the request of the PCGA to adopt and restore Cape Santiago Lighthouse.

As soon as the municipal government approves the resolution, Manas said he would establish a Calatagan Heritage Foundation, composed of PCGA members and town residents, to help raise funds for the lighthouse rehabilitation project.

He dreams of having Cape Santiago declared a national historical monument by the National Historical Institute and a national cultural treasure by the National Museum.

SERBISYONG TAPAT, ABOT-KAYANG PABAHAY PARA SA LAHAT

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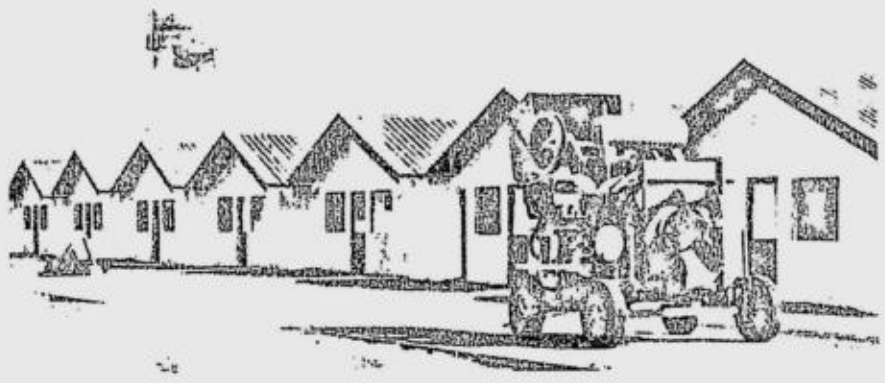
A Boon to the Industry



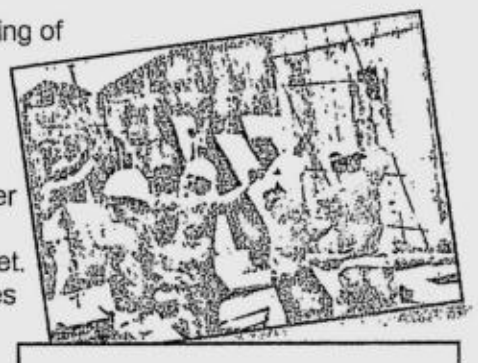
Developers recognize that the government's efforts to energize the housing sector have contributed to the current housing boom. Now, the Housing Fair may be counted as one of those efforts.

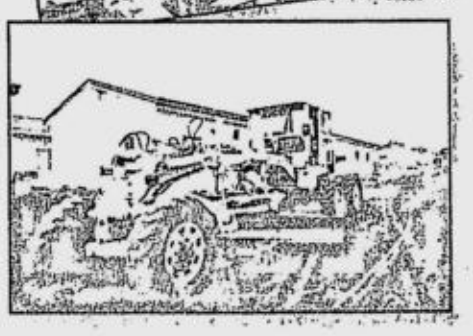
The current growth in the housing market is proving to be more sustainable that previous booms. The growth is driven by demand, both from the local and the OFW sector. The sustainability, on the other hand, is being fueled by greater responsibility among developers, especially in the risk sharing with financing institutions. Another factor is government's efforts to create a favorable climate for growth in the housing industry.

For developer Roy Calleja, Subdivision and Housing Developers Association (SHDA) national president, the housing market is one area where government involvement is a good thing.

"Whenever we see the government making an effort to do something, we are encouraged," he says.

Chief among those efforts is President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's issuance of Executive Order number 45 back in 2001, prescribing the time periods for the issuance of housing-related certifications, clearances and permits of concerned national agencies and the local government unit. This has resulted in faster approval and implementation of housing projects.





Another major initiative is the lowering of interest rates on housing loans, particularly in the Pag-IBIG Fund, the government's premier shelter financing agency. This has made housing more affordable to a greater number of people, and is also causing a shift in the housing market. In the past, Metro Manila employees could only afford to buy homes in the suburbs. Today, the lower monthly amortizations and lower net disposable income requirement due to the decrease in interest rates plus the savings on cost of transportation have put them in the market for affordable condominium units in the city

And now the Housing Fair program is proving to be another such boon, not just to home buyers but also to the housing industry. Now on its second year, the program allows government shelter agencies and GFIs to sell their foreclosed assets at favorable terms to low- and middle-income employees.

"The idea is very good. I think the government should do this more often. Disposing of foreclosed assets has not been given enough attention in the past, and it's dragging the shelter financing system," Calleja states.

"In doing this, you are not only providing homes for those who need it, but you're also making the financial institutions healthy," he adds.

With all these things, plus the continued teamwork between government and the private sector, the sunny days in the housing sector could indeed last longer. Of course, the person at the helm of the sector has also been a key factor.

"Having the number two person in the land heading housing is a something very important. Things move a lot faster," Calleja says.

"Vice President Noli De Castro has been working silently, efficiently, without much fanfare. He has allowed this system of openness, of mutual help between the developers' group and the government. Everything has been improving because of the openness of both developers and the government to dialogue. It's a joint realization that we have to help each other."

Turning More Workers Into Home Buyers

Response to the very first Housing Fair, held last year at the Glorietta Mall, was so enthusiastic that Vice President Noli de Castro, Chairman of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), decided to extend the event by one day to accommodate the number of people who were interested in buying a house from among the foreclosed properties being offered on sale.

The success of the event, coupled with insistent demand by the public, has prompted the HUDCC to organize Housing Fair II, to be held from October 23 to 25, 2007 at the Megatrade Hall 1 of the SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City.

Participating this year are the Home Guaranty Corp., Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board, National Home Mortgage Finance Corp., National Housing Authority, Pag-IBIG Fund, Social Housing Finance Corp., the Government Service Insurance System, the Social Security System, and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

With the theme 'Serbisyong Tapat, Abot-Kayang Pabahay para sa Lahat' the Fair will be open to government and private sector employees, as well as OFWs.

Over 40,000 foreclosed properties and acquired assets will be offered on sale at discounted prices, with interest rates as low as 6% per annum and repayment period as long as 30 years.

Actual discounts and terms for the sale of properties vary, depending on the seller agency or institution.

Private developers will also offer brand new housing units in their respective projects.

According to the Vice President, the Housing Fair is now going to be yearly event.

"As the economy continues to improve, we expect to see additional families every year that will be able to afford to buy their own home, whether it's a foreclosed property, or a brand new unit from one of the housing developers. The Housing Fair will be something for them to look forward to" he said.

For more information, please contact the following Housing Fair secretariat offices:
NCR - (02)8114122/ 8126495; Baguio - (074)4433338; Legaspi - (052)8205344; Iloilo - (033)3350665; Cebu - (032)2341450; Davao - (082)2224322; Cagayan De Oro - (08822)2725965

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Home at Last

The Bobis family has been renting for ten years -moving from one apartment to another, in different cities. Now, thanks to the Housing Fair, they are well and truly settled.

On October 27 and 28 last year thousands of people lined up inside the Glorietta mall for the first Housing Fair organized by the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, hoping to take advantage of the discounted prices and low interest housing loans on more than 50,000 foreclosed housing units being offered by various government agencies and financing institutions.

Jessica Bobis, housewife and mother of three, was one of those people.

Jessica's family had been renting for almost ten years in Sta. Mesa, Manila; Quezon City and Caloocan City before her husband Bienvinido, or "Ben," heard of the Pag-IBIG Fund's Rent-to-Own program (TRO). They found a place in San Mateo, Rizal being offered under the program that suited their needs.

The Housing Fair came at just the right time for them. Since the unit they had been renting at low monthly rates for almost five years is an acquired property of Pag-IBIG, they could buy it through a housing loan under the terms of Housing Fair program.

They were very good terms. Pag-IBIG offered a 15% discount off the appraised value for units acquired through a housing loan. The interest rate is only 6% per annum from the lowest loan value up to P2 million, unlike the graduated rates under the Fund's regular housing loan program. Maximum repayment period was 30 years.

Ben, now a Pag-IBIG Overseas Program (POP) member, completed the requirements for their housing loan while on vacation. "Mabilis naman yung pagproseso ng Pag-IBIG tapos mababait ang mga empleyado," Jessica recalls.

Now the Bobis family is among the more than 2,000 families whose loans have been taken out by Pag-IBIG through the Housing Fair program since last year. And they are truly thankful.

"Dahil sa programa ni Vice President Noli De Castro na Housing Fair, nagkaroon kami ng pagkakataon na mai-loan ang bahay na ito, sa napakamurang halaga at napakababang interes," Jessica says.

"Masasabing amin na ito, ang kailangan lang mabayaran namin," she adds.

After a decade of moving from one place to another, they are now home.

Late SPORTS

More Sports stories on A21 to 24

WELCOAT forward Nic Belasco (center) carves some space in a battle for possession against the Red Bull pair of Carlo Sharma (left) and Celino Cruz in their game last night. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

PHILIPPINE CUP

Phone Pals rip Kings; Bulls score

GAMES TOMORROW *(Araneta Coliseum)*
4:35 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs Alaska
7:20 p.m.—Purefoods vs Magnolia

By Musong R. Castillo

MAC CARDONA, PRODDED BY HIS COACH to change his game to adapt to the relaxed rules, tossed in 20 points and grabbed nine rebounds to lead Talk 'N Text to a 111-102 decision of Barangay Ginebra last night in the Philippine Cup eliminations.

After getting tossed around in their last outing, Cardona bounced back and took the Phone Pals along for the ride as Talk 'N Text also rebounded from a bad beating to improve to 2-1 at the Araneta Coliseum.

"In the last two days of practice, I kept telling them that the most important thing right now is how we bounce back," Pumaren said, referring to their 112-96 loss to Purefoods as a time they were "raped and mangled."

"I told them that 'when you get in there, I don't want to see you asking for fouls,'" he added. "I think that's the way we have to adjust. Instead of crying, asking for fouls, come back and play defense."

Cardona did change the way he played, but almost lost his head on a couple of occasions before burning the defending champions.

He scored 10 points in the second period and then had eight of his total in fourth as the Phone Pals broke away with several 18-point leads to cushion a desperate rally by the Kings, who dropped to an even 1-1.

Earlier, Junthy Valenzuela scored 27 points, including 16 in the first seven minutes of the fourth period, to key a Red Bull breakaway and an 86-75 victory over Welcoat.

The 6-foot-2 swingman, left with most of the scoring load after the departure of three key players to trades last year, outscored the entire Welcoat team in that span to gift the Bulls their first win in two games.

"I am just really trying to step up in their absence," Valenzuela told reporters in Filipino, referring to Enrico Villanueva, Larry Fonacier and Lordy Tugade, who found their way to San Miguel.

The Scores:

First Game

RED BULL 86—Valenzuela 27, Pennisi 12, Sharma 11, Robinson 8, Bagulo 8, Cruz 5, Adriano 5, Bugia 4, Membrere 3, Hrabak 3, Andaya 0, Najorda 0.

WELCOAT 75—Devance 19, Belasco 17, Reyes 11, Wainwright 10, Ibanez 6, Dulay 4, Arana 2, Bagulon 2, Gelig 2, Lopez 2, Ballesteros 0, Sta. Maria 0.

Quarters: 19-16, 35-42, 62-56, 86-75

Second Game

TALK 'N TEXT 111—Cardona 20, Alapag 17, Belano 17, Rituaio 13, Taulava 10, Washington 9, Carey 9, Allado 8, De Ocampo 6, Aljamal 2.

BARANGAY GINEBRA 102—Tubid 22, Reavis 15, Salvacion 13, Mamaril 12, Macapagal 11, Artadi 10, Helterbrand 10, Holper 5, Lao 4, Aquino 0, Escalona 0, Abarrientos 0.

Quarters: 29-28, 52-51, 82-71, 111-102

Avena forges duel vs Park

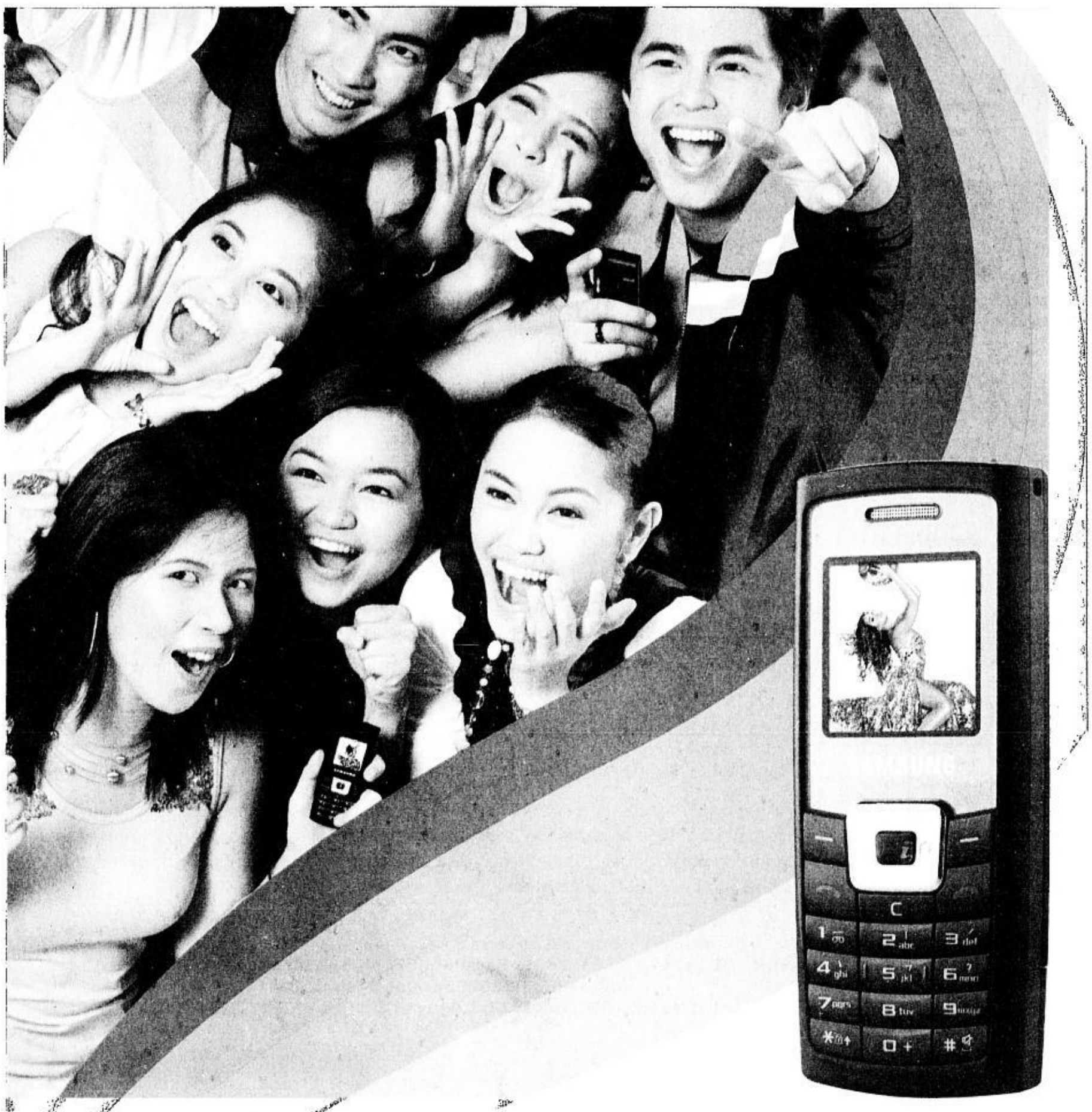
GEN. TRIAS, CAVITE—ABE AVENA OF MT. Malarayat parred the last hole to beat Rodel Mangulabnan of Northwoods, 1 up, yesterday and set up a semifinal meeting with defending champion Park Jung-soo even as Lino Magpantay and Marty Ilagan also advanced in the men's division of the National Tournament of Club Champions presented by HSBC and INQUIRER GOLF.

The 12th seeded Avena came back from three holes down to forge a tie on the 17th then hit a knock-down 6-iron from the rough well enough to reach the green and secure the winning par. Mangulabnan bogeyed from the hazard.

Magpantay, playing for Summit Point, hit a "career shot" on the dreaded 18th hole of the Eagle Ridge's Faldo course—an against-the-wind 5-iron that landed just six feet of the flag—to oust the favored Jingy Tuason of Sta. Elena, 1 up.

"It felt so good," said Magpantay, a successful realtor, of the big shot that gave him another upset win after disposing of third seed Raffy Garcia of Forest Hills in the first round Tuesday.

The 61-year-old next faces Marty Ilagan of Manila Southwoods who survived Iggy Clavecilla of Alabang, 2 up.



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Murder raps vs Gonzalez

DOJ reverses dismissal of charges against trader in stepbrother's slay

By Leila B. Salaverria

ACTING JUSTICE SECRETARY AGNES Devanadera has reversed the findings of a Manila prosecutor who earlier recommended the dismissal of the charges filed against businessman Luis Gonzalez and his driver, Antonio Buenaflor, in connection with the death of Gonzalez's stepbrother and the attack on his companion last March.

In her Oct. 15 resolution, Devanadera ordered the filing within 10 days of charges of murder and less physical injuries against Gonzalez and Buenaflor who are accused of killing Federico Delgado and mauling Annalisa Pesico inside Delgado's house in Malate, Manila last March 10.

She noted that Pesico had positively identified the two as the persons who stabbed Delgado and then mauled her before locking her up in a closet.

"Consistent with the established jurisprudence on the matter, the positive identification of respondents as the perpetrators has to prevail over their denials and alibis," she said.

"While respondents and their witnesses may have claimed that (Gonzalez and Buenaflor) were elsewhere when the offenses were committed, there is nonetheless no clear and convincing evidence showing that it was truly impossible for them to be at the scene of the crimes and commit them. The possibility is not foreclosed that indeed they could have been there and have committed the offenses charged," Devanadera added.

In recommending the dismissal of the complaints against the two suspects, acting City Prosecutor of Manila Cielitolindo Luyun said that "unbiased and disinterested witnesses" had testified that Gonzalez was at the Makati Medical Center before, during and after his stepbrother's death.

He noted that there was another witness who corroborated Buenaflor's statement that he was in a restaurant on Roxas Boulevard when Gonzalez was killed.

But according to Devanadera, Luyun himself said that it would not have been impossible for Gonzalez to be at the crime scene and then return to the hospital. The same could also be said of his driver, he added.

"The positive and categorical identification of respondents by complainant Annalisa, which we find to be more credible than bare denial and alibi, more than meets the quantum of evidence necessary in a preliminary investigation," the justice official said.

The INQUIRER tried to reach the families of both Gonzalez and Delgado for comment, but calls to their cell phones were unanswered.

MMDA, Ynares hold talks on Metro trash

By Jeannette I. Andrade and Kristine L. Alave

METROPOLITAN MANILA DEVELOPMENT Authority Chair Bayani Fernando and Rizal Gov. Casimiro Ynares III will discuss today the agency's request for the province to accommodate garbage from the metropolis for six more months.

Ynares' spokesperson, Fernan Angeles, said they expect a Malacañang official "to mediate" the talks between the Rizal provincial government and the MMDA.

The governor earlier announced that the recently opened Rodriguez landfill would accommodate the waste generated by Metro Manila residents only until today.

Ynares said the 19-hectare dump was for the province's exclusive use and the MMDA should start looking for alternative dumps or

MMDA/ A18

DID YOU KNOW

THE AMERICAN colonial government in the Philippines established in 1901 the Insular Museum of Ethnology, Natural History and Commerce. It is now known as the National Museum of the Philippines.

The museum complex located in Ermita, Manila, includes the former Legislative Building and the former Department of Finance building.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

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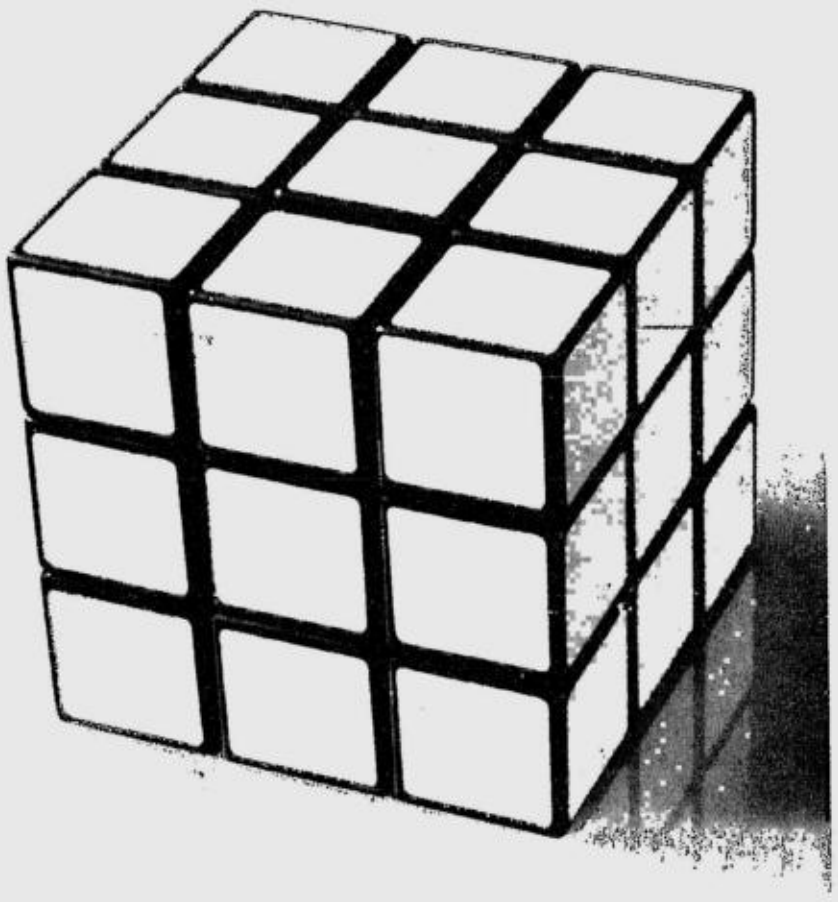

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Security measures in place for November holidays

By Allison W. Lopez, Julie M. Aurelio and Tina G. Santos

POLICE IN SOME PARTS OF Metro Manila have already put in place security measures for the observance of All Saints' Day on Nov. 1 and All Souls' Day on Nov. 2.

Several roads near cemeteries in Manila will be closed to traffic, the Manila Police District Traffic Enforcement Unit said yesterday.

MPDTEU chief, Supt. Roberto de la Rosa, said public utility vehicles would be rerouted while certain parking areas would be designated for the convenience of people visiting their loved ones in the city's cemeteries.

Roads near Manila cemeteries like Aurora Boulevard from Dimasalang to Rizal Avenue, Blumentritt from A. Bonifacio to P. Guevarra, Dimasalang from Makiling to Blumentritt, Retiro from Dimasalang to Blumentritt, P. Guevarra from Cavite to Pampanga and L. Rivera from Cavite to Bulacan would also be closed to traffic from 4 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Nov. 1.

On the other hand, Rizal Avenue, Jose Abad Santos, Tayuman, Dimasalang and Makiling Streets would remain open.

A command post manned by the Philippine National Police and Metropolitan Manila Development Authority would be put up at the Dimasalang Circle to provide assistance to the public.

Policemen would also be deployed to the North Cemetery, South Cemetery, La Loma Cemetery and the Chinese Cemetery to maintain peace and order.

Manila city health officials, meanwhile, reminded the public that vendors are prohibited from putting up stalls near the entrance and exits of cemeteries.

In Muntinlupa, around 100 policemen will be deployed to the city's six cemeteries—the Aglipayan Cemetery, Muntinlupa Public Cemetery, Putatan Cemetery, Everest Memorial Park, NBP Cemetery and the San Nicolas Cemetery in Buli.

Mayor Aldrin San Pedro has also ordered Supt. Alfredo Valdez, Muntinlupa police chief, to tell his men to watch out for thieves who may be planning to rob houses whose residents are either visiting their dead or have gone home to their provinces.

"We will also field additional mobile cars and motorcycle units on major roads and in residential areas, churches and other establishments," Valdez said.

Subdivisions and villages, in particular, will be closely watched to prevent "Akyat Bahay" gangs from breaking into houses.

"Expect more policemen at the bus terminals to protect passengers on their way to the provinces from pickpockets and snatchers," Valdez added.

The city government is working out a traffic rerouting plan to ensure smooth traffic flow in roads leading to cemeteries.

"It is important that all key agencies coordinate the smooth implementation of our security measures. We cannot afford to be lax in our 'Oplan Kaluluwa' project," the mayor said.

The police also advised the public not to bring alcoholic drinks and deadly weapons to cemeteries.

MMDA, Ynares hold talks . . . From page A17

develop new landfills with the private sector.

Cities at the heart of Metro Manila like Makati, Pasig, Mandaluyong and San Juan are likely to be most affected by Rizal's refusal to accommodate the metropolis' trash because they do not have their own landfills.

Meanwhile, Rodriguez Mayor Pedro Cuerpo, who earlier figured in a standoff with Ynares over the operation of the 14-hectare landfill in his town, warned that he would close both dumps if the MMDA and Metro Manila mayors do not enter into an agreement directly with him.

At a press conference yesterday in Quezon City, Cuerpo stressed that should the MMDA persist on entering a contract with any other government or private entity for the dumping of garbage in his municipality, Rodriguez would no longer accommodate garbage from the metropolis.

"MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando and Metro mayors should review the basis of their decision to negotiate the dumping of Metro Manila's waste in an illegal, unauthorized dump in Rodriguez, Rizal and turn the Metro area into a stinking mess," the mayor emphasized. Both landfills are in Rodriguez town.

One-third of the 8,000 cu. m. of garbage generated by Metro Manila used to go to the 14-hectare landfill until Ynares ordered its closure and the waste diverted into the bigger dump.

Cuerpo, however, said the new landfill does not have any permit. Ynares earlier said that Rizal's application for an environmental compliance certificate (ECC) was approved by the Laguna Lake Development Authority on Oct. 19.

LLDA General Manager Edgardo Manda, however, clarified that what he gave Ynares was not an ECC but a "temporary clearance" to operate "to cure the deficiencies" within 90 days.

A question of trust

ON TARGE

Ramon Tulfo

WHERE IN THE WORLD DO you find a government that begs a convicted grafter to accept pardon?

Only in the Philippines!

* * *

Former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, who was responsible for the downfall of his erstwhile friend President Erap, feels cheated.

Singson says he and the Filipino people were used by this administration and dumped after it got what it wanted: Obtaining conviction for Erap.

Why the hurry in giving Erap "full, free and unconditional" pardon barely two months after his conviction, Singson asks.

"I was used," the former governor and defeated administration senatorial bet said.

Mr. Singson, has it taken you this long to realize that?

* * *

But then in politics there are no permanent friends, only permanent interests.

And since GMA is a complete politician, it is not surprising why she behaves the way she does.

And when you go against her personal interests, sorry for you!

Ask some of her former supporters and friends and you'll know what I mean.

* * *

Speaker Jose de Venecia, after reconciling with President Gloria through the mediation of former President Fidel Ramos, disagrees with the popular perception that GMA is a lameduck president.

"She still has powers to put together big programs," JDV says.

There goes JDV with his trademark "*bola*" (flattery).

Of course, GMA is already a lameduck Chief Executive after all the issues she has been linked to like the "Hello Garci" scandal, the NBN-ZTE scandal, the blatant distribution of bags of money to congressmen and local officials in Malacañang.

When people distrust their president, the leader can't undertake any project without incurring suspicion.

They question the leader's motive in everything he or she does.

And the result? The leader loses power over his or her subjects. He or she becomes a lameduck.

* * *

If not for President Gloria's timely intervention, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita would have gotten into a fight with Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno over the reported bribery scandal, according to a Palace source.

Ermita, the Palace source said, suspected Puno of being the "brains" behind the distribution of largesse to congressmen and local officials.

Ermita reportedly told Puno, in front of the President that the latter should have consulted him on the matter since he was on his turf.

During the heated exchange of words, the executive secretary was allegedly gearing for a fight with Puno, but the President stood in the middle.

"*Sayang*," my source said.

METROBRIEFS

Boy's body found

POLICE are investigating the death of a young boy whose body was found near a dump in Manila yesterday morning. Chief Insp. Alejandro Yanquilling, head of the Manila Police District homicide division, said they are trying to determine the cause of death and identity of the boy, described as about 2 to 3 years old. The victim, who had bruises and bumps in the head and in different parts of the body, was clad only in a T-shirt, Yanquilling said. Investigation showed that the victim's body was found at around 6 a.m. near a pile of garbage in front of the house of Lito Catapay at 541 Road 2, Manotoc Subdivision in Gagalangin, Tondo. Yanquilling said nobody in the area knew the boy, prompting him to suspect that the victim's body was just dumped there.

Tina G. Santos

Guilty of homicide

A TRICYCLE "barker" has been convicted of homicide for the death of his neighbor in Quezon City more than two years ago. Judge Bernelito R. Fernandez of the QC Regional Trial Court Branch 97 sentenced Rolly Rolly E. Oñate, a resident of IBP Road in Batasan Hills, to 10 to 14 years in prison for stabbing to death Wenceslao Magos. The judge also ordered Oñate to pay P50,000 to the victim's family for moral damages and legal expenses. Court records showed that on Sept. 18, 2005, Oñate and Magos were drinking when they had a heated argument. The former later stabbed the victim several times using a bolo. In his defense, Oñate stressed he was plying his tricycle at the time the victim was killed. The court, however, found his alibi "weak and unacceptable" and noted that it did not show, without doubt, that he was indeed somewhere else when the incident took place.

Kenneth M. del Rosario

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CMMA marks 29th Year Milestone

XIX

The Catholic Mass Media Awards

A record 850 entries, the highest entry count in CMMA's 29-year history representing the Student, Radio, Print, Advertising, Cinema, Television, Internet, Website and Music communities, vied for this year's contest which also confers the esteemed Cardinal Sin Book Awards.

The Catholic Mass Media Awards Foundation gives its trademark rock trophies to honor the country's best values-communication works and individuals, at the Assumption College's Marie Eugenie Theater of the Assumption (METTA) in San Lorenzo Village, Makati City beginning at 5PM today.

Sec. Alberto G. Romulo

Department of Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto G. Romulo graces the prestigious event as Guest of Honor and Speaker, while media personalities, showbiz stars, the CMMA's Board of Trustees, bishops and clergy will present the awards.

This year's winners in 54 categories were selected by different panels of judges representing the academe, the print and broadcast media, the music and cinema industries, and the religious community.

His Eminence Gaudencio B. Cardinal Rosales, D.D.,Archbishop of Manila and CMMA Honorary Chairman and Amb. Antonio L. Cabangon Chua, CMMA Chairman and President confer the Jaime L. Cardinal Sin SERVIAM Awards to Msgr. Sabino A. Vengco Jr. and Bo Sanchez in the Individual Category and the Catechetical Media Network - Asia (CMN-Asia, Inc.) in the Institutional Category.

Also elevated to the Hall of Fame for Best Educational Program is the three-time winner Mom's Morning Chat of Mom's Radio, Southern Broadcasting Corp.

Renowned performers such as Jolina Magdangal, Kea Chan, Reuben Laurente, AKA, Makisig, Buganda Performing Arts and the Mandaluyong Choir are also set to render special numbers.

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2007 CMMA FINALISTS

STUDENT CMMA

Best Student Organ - Grade School
Little Bluestockings by St. Scholastica's College, *Ang Aloysyan* by St. Aloysius Academy of Dasmariñas, *The Greenery* by La Salle Greenhills, *Hoofprint* by Xavier School, *Junior Ridge* by PAREF Southridge.

Best Student Organ - High School
The Makati Science Vision by Makati Science High School, *The Crozier* by St. Augustine School, *The Manresan* by Manresa School, *The Judenites* by St. Jude Catholic School, *Scout Monitor* by Chiang Kai Shek College.

Best Student Organ - College
Katipunan Magazine by Ateneo de Manila University, *L Magazine* by De La Salle, Lipa City, *Lavoxa* by De La Salle, Lipa City, *The Varsitarian* by University of Santo Tomas, *Phoenix Broadsheet, Analects IV, Phoenix Literary Gleanings* by Lyceum of Batangas, *Engineering Spectrum* by Polytechnic University of the Philippines.

Best TV Production
Pundidò, Pasan, & Isla Pulo by Polytechnic University of the Philippines, *Sa Pusod ng Calancan* by St. Scholastica's College, *Kalawakan* by Colegio de San Juan de Letran, and *Little Black Box: TV & Social Responsibility* by University of the Philippines-Diliman.

Best Short Film
Hulog ng Langit by St. Paul-QC, *Metro, Panakoba, Elliptical Road, Sutana, & Gatas ng Pusa* by Colegio de San Juan de Letran.

Best TV AD Public Service
Iskul, Bingwit, & Kamay by St. Paul University, *Usok, Pondo ng Pinoy (Map), Who Won't, Illusion, & Diplomadaya* by Lyceum of the Phils University, *Smoking* by Lyceum of Batangas, *Boto Domino, & Burado* by Colegio de San Juan de Letran.

Best Radio AD
Cassette, Larong Pamboto, & Pireted by Lyceum of the Phils University, *Sana'y Maulit Muli* by Colegio de San Juan de Letran, *Tamang Pagboto, & Munting Pangarap* by Polytechnic University of the Philippines.

Best Print AD
Misa - Makipag-usap by Colegio de San Juan de Letran, *Oras Na, & Lamb of God* by Lyceum of the Phils. University, *Be an AKAP Volunteer Today/Poverty* by PAREF- Southridge, and *Respect T.H.E.M., & Bawal ang Kopyahan* by Far Eastern University

INTERNET

Best Website
www.preachersinbluejeans.com by Shepherd's Voice Radio and TV Foundation, *www.cfamedia.com* by Communication Foundation for Asia, *www.lopezgroup.org* by Lopez Group Foundation, and *www.haribon.org.ph* by Haribon Foundation.

CINEMA
Inang Yaya by Unitel Pictures, *Saan Nagtatago si Happiness* by Mediarevolution Film Production, *Ina...Anak, Pamilya* by Information Media for Progress Alternative Communication Tech (IMPACT), Inc.and *Kubrador* by MLR Films.

MUSIC

Best Album - Secular
Pop Virtuosity by Reuben Laurente/ D-Concorde Recording Corp.,*Relevance* by Gary V/Universal Records, Inc., *Himig Nating Pag-ibig* by Noel Cabangon/Ballyhoo Records, *Love Speak with Ryan Agoncillo* by Vicor Music Corporation, *Now Hear This...* Nyoy Volante by Vicor Music Corporation, *Noel Cassandra* by Dyna Music Productions, and *Filipino Classics* by: Basil Valdez/Viva Records.

Best Album - Religious
A Wish for Christmas by Jesuit Communications Foundation Inc, *Ikaw Lamang, O Panginoon* by Hipolito Magnaye Music, *The 5th MISA Collection (Vol.3)* by Logos Publications, Inc., *King of Glory* by JLYCC-Kairos Music, and*Believe Like A Child* by Star Recording Inc..

Best Music Video
Power to Unite by Catholic Family Bible Group, Inc./Music Works, *Ehemplo* by Jesuit Communications Foundation, Inc., and *Tulay na Tuloy Pa Rin Ang Pasko* by Universal Records, Inc.

TELEVISION

Best TV Special
Sa Kambas ng Lipunan by ABS-CBN, *Panata* by Jesuit Communications Foundation, Inc /ABS-CBN, *Pitong Paglalakbay, & Philippine Agenda (Edukasyon)* by GMA-7, and *9/11: The Philippine Connection* by ABS-CBN.

Best Talk Show
Media in Focus, Talkback with Tina Palma, and *Korina Today* by ANC 21.

Best Special Event Coverage
Daloy "Peñafrancia TV Special 2006" by ABS-CBN Naga, and *Frontlines & Simbang Gabi sa ABC* by ABC-5.

Best Business Program or Feature *Amiga* by ABS-CBN RNG Bacolod, *Asenso Pinoy* TV by ABC-5, *Go Negosyo Bigtime* by RPN 9, *Business Nightly* by ANC 21, and *Teledyaryo Business* by NBN 4.

Best Adult Educational/Cultural Program
Ang Pinaka... by QTV 11, *Eleksiyong Pinoy Bagong Yugto* by Jesuit Communications Foundation, Inc./ANC 21, *I-Witness: GMA Documentaries, 100% Pinoy, Pinoy Meets World, & Philippine Agenda* by GMA 7, Pilipinas, *Game Ka Na Ba?* by ABS-CBN, *Bikol Espesyal! Oragon Na!* by ABS-CBN Naga.

Best Entertainment Program
Balik-Bayan by QTV 11, *Wowowee* and *Sharon* by ABS-CBN.

Best Children's Program
Little Big Superstar by ABS-CBN, and *Ang mga Kuwento Ni Lola Basyang* by GMA 7.

Best Drama Series / Program
Komiks Presents: The Adventure of Pedro Penduko, Super Inggo by ABS-CBN, *Dahil Sa Iyong Paglisan,* QTV – 11, *Super Twins,* and *Magpakailanman* by GMA – 7.

Best News Program
News on Q by QTV 11, *Testigo, Saksi Liga ng Katotohanan, 24 Oras* by GMA 7, *TV Patrol Southern Mindanao* by ABS - CBN RNG Davao, *Balitang Europe* by ABS-CBN Global Ltd., *TV Patrol World,* and *Bandila* by ABS-CBN.

Best Public Service Program
Sana'y Muling Makapiling by QTV 11, *Emergency, Wish Ko Lang, & Imbestigador* by GMA 7, *X X X Exclusibong Explosibong Expose,* and *Nagmamahal, Kapamilya* by ABS-CBN.

Best Sports Show
Sports Unlimited by ABS-CBN, *Sports TV* by Studio 23, and *The Sports List* by NBN 4.

Best News Magazine
Sapulso by QTV 11, *Unang Hirit, Reporter's Notebook, Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho,* and *I-Witness: The GMA Documentaries* by GMA 7, *The Correspondents* and *Rated K, Handa NaBa Kayo?* by ABS-CBN.

Best Comedy Program
Gag Itol by Studio 23, *Goin' Bulilit, Aalog-Alog,* and *John En Shirley* by ABS – CBN.

RADIO

Best Drama Program (Episodic or Serial)
Huwag Mangamba by DZRV Radio Veritas, *Maalaala Mo Kaya sa DZMM* by DZMM Radyo Patrol Sais Trenta, *Mom's Vineyard "Abraham's Test of Faith"* by SBN / Mom's Radio Davao, *Mom's Vineyard "The Boy Jesus in the Temple"* by SBN / Mom's Radio Cebu, *Mom's Vineyard "The Story of the Visitation"* by SBN / Mom's Radio Bacolod, *Mom's Vineyard "The Trial Before Pilate"* by SBN / Mom's Radio Cagayan de Oro, *Sugpuin ang Korupsyon "How Values Get Distorted"* by DZRH, The Love Clinic by Monster Radio RX 93.1.

Best News Commentary
Pasada 630 Sabado and *Para Sa Iyo Bayan* by DZMM Radyo Patrol Sais Trenta.

Best News Program
Balitang Balita by ABS-CBN - Manila Radio Division, *Radyo Patrol Alas Onse Y Media, Radyo Patrol Alas Kwatro, & Radyo Patrol Alas Syete* by DZMM Radyo Patrol Sais Trenta, *Super Balita Sa Umaga Nationwide* by GMA Super Radyo DZBB, *Birada* by DZXL RMN Manila, and *DYAB Radio Patrol Balita* by ABS-CBN DYAB Cebu.

Best Public Service Program
Morning with M by DWBR (104.3 FM), Sagot Ko Yan ! & Dr. Love by DZMM Radyo Patrol Sais Trenta, *Afternoon Chat Special- Mama Says Papa Says "Building Relationship with God's Family* by SBN / Mom's Radio Cagayan de Oro, *Sugpuin ang Korupsyon & Dear Philhealth* by DZRH, and *The Love Clinic "Reflection"* by Monster Radio RX 93.1.

Best Educational Program
Konsyumer at iba pa! by DZMM Radyo Patrol Sais Trenta, *Sulyap Kultura* by PBS/ BBS DZRB 738 Radyo ng Bayan, and *Wan Dey Isang Araw* by DZAS AM 702 khz.

Best Entertainment Program
Wan Dey Isang Araw by DZAS AM 702 khz. and *Back to the Eighties* by Monster Radio RX 93.1.

Best Business Program or Feature
Business Matters by 98.7 DZFE FM (FEBC), *Radyo Negosyo & Sikapinay* by DZMM Radyo Patrol Sais Trenta, and *Supermom-Mommy Negosyante* by SBN / Mom's Radio Davao.

ADVERTISING

Best Outdoor AD-Branded
Alcala-Julies Bakeshop 2007 Calendar of Julie's Franchise Corp. by Campaigns Cebu, *Boat* of Golden Arches Dev't. Corp/ Ronald McDonald House of Charities by DDB Philippines, and *Guimaras Hair and Comb* of PIANDRE by TBWA/ Santiago Mangada Puno.

Best Outdoor AD-Public Service
Vote for Me by APM Ads Promo Mgt., *S.C.A.N.* of Hope Worldwide by Y & R Philippines, and *Frog & Broccoli* of KLIMA by TBWA/ Santiago Mangada Puno.

Best TV AD-Public Service
Sa Isa Kong Boto-"Teacher", "May Kapansanan", & "Aling Roda" by GMA Network, *Vanishing* of UNDP by Ace Saatchi & Saatchi, *Bed & Bath* of Childhope Asia Phils. by BBDO Guerrero Ortega, *Lines* of NCFRW by CSR / Campaigns, *Catwalk* of Child Protection Unit Network by Campaigns, *Education* of UNICEF by TBWA/ Santiago Mangada Puno, and *Wrong Send* of Smart Communications & *Soil* of Asian Development Bank by DM9 JaymeSyfu.

Best TV AD-Branded
Coming Home of Jollibee by Jimenez Basic, *Graduate* of Western Union, *Ms. & Mrs. Joy* of Jollibee & *Embrace* of Unilab by Jimenez Basic, *Bonakid* of Wyeth by Adformatix, *McDonald's Breakfast "Family" & Frankie's Eyes"* of Golden Arches Devt. Corp. by DDB Philippines, *Biogesic "Pinoy"* of United Laboratories, Inc. by McCann-Erickson Phils., *Unicef "Halimaw"* of UNICEF by Harrison Communications, *GMA Station ID, Mt. Everest/ Romy Garduce* of GMA Creative Service Division, & *Panata* of GMA News & Public Affairs by GMA Network, *Delivery Room* of ABC 5 by TBWA/Santiago Managada Puno, *Surf "Biyaya"* of Unilever Phils. by Lowe Inc., and *Father & Son* of Smart Communications by DM9 JaymeSyfu.

Best Radio AD Public Service
Bawal of UNICEF & *Super Lolo of* Phil. Cancer Society by BBDO Guerrero Ortega, *Power to Unite* of The National Family Bible Quiz by World Impact Communications, Inc, *Caritas 911* of Caritas Manila by Ace Saatchi & Saatchi, *Reefcheck* of Reefcheck by CSR / Campaigns, *First Time* of Pro-Life Phils. by DM9 JaymeSyfu, and *Vowels* of Child Protection Unit Network by Campaigns.

Best Radio AD Branded
Bible Reading of Bayantel Corp. by BBDO Guerrero Ortega, *McDonald's FOF "Prayer" & "Greed"* of Golden Arches Devt. Corp. by DDB Phils., *Panalangin* of The Philippine Star by TBWA/ Santiago Mangada Puno, and *Bestfoods Saycheeze "Pangarap"* of Unilever Phils. by Lowe, Inc.

Best Print AD Public Service
Mother's Day of Pro-Life Phils. by DM9 JaymeSyfu, and *Warships & Bullets* of Soroptimist Int'l Malaysia by Y & R Philippines.

Best Print AD Branded
Lent of PLDT by DDB Philippines, *Meloto & Printing Press* of Philippine Daily Inquirer by Mc Cann Erickson, *Ifugao, Palawan, Batanes, & 'Sagada* of Philippine Star by TBWA/ Santiago Mangada Puno, *Abubakar* of Smart Communications by DM9 JaymeSyfu, *Book Titles* of National Bookstore by Creative Concepts, Inc, and *Sustagen "Father's Day"* of Bristol Myers Squibb Company by Ace Saatchi & Saatchi.

PRINT

Best Business Column
In the Workplace by Reylito A.H. Elbo of Business World, and *Hezbollah in Lebanon? We have Herbollah in Gloria's SONA, Build More Schools, not waiting sheds or overpriced lamp posts! & Bull Sheet, Bull Market - The True story of American secret Santa* by Wilson Lee Flores/ The Philippine Star

Best Comic Strip
Tunay na Dakila by Ben Gregory Aquino/ The Bread Basket, and *David, the Great* by Fr. Salvatore Putzu, SDB & Jeff Eppler/ Word & Life.

Best Children's Magazine
Super Benj! by Ma. Cecilia Laxa-Pangilinan/ The Master's Workhouse, Inc., *Back Pack & The Bread Basket* by CMN-Asia, Inc. / Rex Publishing, *Young Messenger Magazine* by Diwa Scholastic Press, Inc., and *Gospel Komiks (English Edition), Gospel Komiks (Edisyong Pilipino), Pambata Magazine, Baby Jesus Magazine,& Jesus Magazine* by Communication Foundation for Asia.

Best Entertainment Column
Media and You by Marian C. Santos/ Crossroads, *Life Lessons from "Mission Impossible III" star Tom Cruise* by Wilson Lee Flores/ The Philippine Star, and *Viewfinder* by Nestor U. Torres/ Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Best Opinion Column
Commentary by Minyong Ordoñez/ Business World, *If I were a Congressman...* by Wilson Lee Flores, *New Beginnings* by Bum Tenorio, *As I Wreck This Chair* by William M. Esposo/ The Philippine Star, *Chambers* by Korina Sanchez/ The Philippine Star, *Pinoy Kasi* by Michael L. Tan/ Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Best Special Feature
From "Bugoy" to Martyr by Glady V. Ramos/ Word & Life, *Cory Aquino on Ninoy's Death anniversary, Kris, James Yap, Danding, GMA, Imelda & A Century Old Tradition of Journalistic Courage* & Excellence by Wilson Lee Flores/ The Philippine Star, *Living Suzette Romero-Andrews Looking Glass* and *Rose King, Mimi Martin & Nick Pichay* by The Big C, *Mary for All* by Dr. Jake Yap/ True North, *A School for Dumagat elder in Tanay* by Edson C. Tandoc/ Philippine Daily Inquirer, *Joel the Beloved from the Society* by Freida V. Dario/ Metro Magazine, *Hail to the Pioneers* by Lawrence Casiraya, Melba Bernad, Jenalyn Rubio, Tom Noda, April Rojales/ Computer World Philippines, *Mobile Library Brings World of Books* by Jocelyn R. Uy/ Philippine Daily Inquirer, *Kuya Robert Reaches Out Through Art* by Claudine F. Duyala/ Youth Today, and *Bringing the Faith to life In the Cemetery* by Glady V. Ramos/ Word & Life.

Best Short Story
The Crying Trees by Mary Ann Ordinario-Floresta/ ABC Educational Development Center, *Ang Doktor Kong Nanay* by Conrado O. Benitez/ Pambata Magazine, *Bro. Berting, Ang Impostor* by Almar T. Gallero & Lito Magnaye & *From Perdition to Redemption* by Almar T. Gallero, *Si Ba Angel* by Jericho M. Natividad of Gospel Komiks Magazine, *Relihiyon ng Pag-ibig* & *Habang Buhay Bata* by Almar T. Gallero, *A Smile in the Planet of Tears* by Kat Lukasan & Almar Gallero and *Buhay Bakwet* by Luis Gatmaitan of Gospel Komiks Magazine for Young People, *Of the News and Forever* by Cora C. Despabiladeras/ Barkada Magazine, and *Ang Kumot ni Dora* by Renato C. Vibiesca/ Jesus Magazine.

Best Youth Magazine
Word & Life by Word & Life Publications, *Youth Today* by Foundation for Christ Love – Asia, *Crossroads* by CMN Asia / Rex Publishing, *Jubilee Door Magazine* by Diwa Scholastic Press Inc., *Gospel Komiks (Collector's Edition), Gospel Komiks Magazine for Young People & Barkada* by Communication Foundation for Asia, and *TG & Y (The Gospel Komiks & You)* by Foundation for Christ Love – Asia.

Best Local Community / Parish Newspaper
World Mission Magazine by Comboni Missionaries of the Heart Jesus/World Mission Publications, *The Bosconian* by Forum Don Bosco Technical College, *Tulay Fortnightly* by Kaisa Para Sa Kaunlaran, Inc., *Muse Magazine* by Mediawise Communications, *True North* by Ligaya ng Panginoon Publication, and *Sulat Kayabe* by Archdiocesan Christian Youth Ministry -Pampanga.

Best Investigative Report
The Guimaras Oil Spill: Endangering by Belinda dela Paz/ Haring Ibon Magazine, *Special Report* by Resty Maglalang/ The Big C, *Pinoys Go Global & Macro Goals for Microfinance* by Michael David C. Tan/ Enterprise Magazine, *The State of Philippine Education* by Fernando del Mundo, Volt Contreras, & Alcuin Papa, *Special People* by Jocelyn Uy, Tarra Quismundo, Tonette Orejas, & Chelo Formoso, *Guimaras Oil Spill* by Leila B. Salaveria, & *Filipino Sex Prisoner Thought She was In France* by Gemma Luz Corotan of Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Best Sports Column
Sporting Chance by Quinito Henson/ The Philippine Star, *The Scene Around* by Ed Picson/ Manila Bulletin, and *Sports Fan* by Ding Marcelo/ Manila Bulletin.

Best Editorial Cartoon
Environmental Awareness by Gilbert Daroy, *Moral Foundation, Family Values and Sex Education & Rights of the Child* by Jess Abrera, of Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Best News Photograph
A Long Journey Home by Manny Marcelo/ The Philippine Star, *Hands of Solidarity* by Rafael Lerma, *The Last of the Pawikan* by Arnold Almacen, *Father and Child* by Edwin Bacasmas, *The Young and the Restless* by Edwin Bacasmas/ Philippine Daily Inquirer, and *Sea of Devotees* by Albert Garcia/ Tempo.

Best News Coverage
JPEPA Japan-RP Trade deal and Toxic wastes by Blanche S. Rivera & *Oil Spill of Guimaras could reach Boracay* by Nestor P. Burgos, Jr. & Leila Salaveria, and *Guimaras Oil Spill* by Nestor P. Burgos, Jr./ Philippine Daily Inquirer, *Chinese Poaching in Tubbataha* by Catherine Adraneda, *Boratong Series* by Non Alquitran/ The Philippine Star, and *Toyota Earth Day* by Joseph Ong/ World News.

CARDINAL SIN BOOK AWARDS

Theology & Liturgy
Prusisyon: Paghahanda at Pagdiriwang by Michael P. de Los Reyes/Claretian Publications, *Theology of the Body Books I & II* by Melchor B. Montalbo/ Catholic Book Center for Book I Soler Publishing for Book II, and *Spirituality and Quality of Life* by Rico P. Ponce, O. Carm/ Institute of Spirituality in Asia, Manila.

Emerging Author
They Have Jesus by Joey Velasco/ Kenosis Publications, *New Every Morning, New Everyday* by Domie Guzman, SSP/ St. Paul's Publishing, and *Prusisyon: Paghahanda at Pagdiriwang* by Michael P. de Los Reyes/ Claretian Publications.

Family Life Youth and Children
The Parable of the Elder Brother by Johnny C. Go, SJ/ Jesuit Communications Foundation, *Great Is My Faithfulness* by Prof. Fernando de Leon Trinidad/ UST Publishing House, and *Stories From A Weekend* by Fr. Ted Gonzales, SJ/ St. Pauls Publishing.

Spirituality and Ministry
8 Secrets of the Truly Rich by Bo Sanchez/ Shepherd's Voice Publications, *Church, State, and Civil Society in Post Authoritarian Philippines* by Antonio F. Moreno, SJ/ Ateneo de Manila University Press, and *How to Find Your One True Love* by Bo Sanchez/ Shepherd's Voice Publications.

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Turkey readies for incursion into Iraq

ANKARA—TURKISH TROOPS HAVE SHELLED suspected Kurdish rebel positions across the border in Iraq, a government official said on Wednesday before civilian and military leaders gathered to discuss the scope and duration of a possible offensive into northern Iraq.

Turkish artillery units shelled rebel positions as recently as Tuesday night after a rebel ambush on Sunday that killed 12 soldiers near the border, the official said on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media. He did not say which areas were targeted and refused to give further information.

The official denied a newspaper report of a Turkish air strike against northern Iraq, and only confirmed shelling of rebel positions by artillery units. Iraqi Kurdish officials also confirmed Turkish shelling along the border over the weekend.

Turkey, which has moved troops to the Iraq border, warned Iraq and Western allies on Tuesday that a Turkish incursion is imminent unless the US-backed government in Baghdad takes action, and said there would be no ceasefire with the separatist fighters.

Turkish leaders face growing demands at home to stage the offensive in northern Iraq, where the rebels of the Kurdistan Workers' Party—the PKK—rest, train and get supplies in relative safety before returning to Turkey to conduct attacks.

Iraq proposed to send a high-level delegation to Turkey in a few days to discuss the problem.

Foreign Minister Ali Babacan, returning late Tuesday from Baghdad, said, "We said that we are expecting them to come with concrete proposals and otherwise the visit will have no meaning."

The United States issued its most direct demand yet for anti-rebel measures from Iraqi Kurds who hold effective autonomy over territory where Turkish Kurd guerrillas have camps.

Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki ordered the closure of all offices belonging to the PKK in Iraq and said they would not be allowed to operate in Iraqi territory.

"We need more than words," Babacan said. "We said that preventing the PKK from using the Iraqi soil, an end to logistical support and all PKK activities inside Iraq and closing of its camps are needed. We also said its leaders need to be arrested and extradited to Turkey."

During the funerals on Tuesday of 12 soldiers slain in the weekend ambush, tens of thousands mourners chanted slogans urging the government to order an incursion.

Adding to the tensions is the alleged capture of eight Turkish soldiers who have been missing since Sunday's ambush.

Several newspapers printed pictures showing eight missing soldiers—allegedly hostages in the hands of separatist rebels.

Roj TV, a pro-Kurdish station that is based in Denmark and banned in Turkey on grounds that it is a mouthpiece for Kurdish rebels, aired footage of what it said were soldiers in rebel hands. In the footage, the camera pans across eight men standing in a row in the mountains with a PKK flag as a backdrop.

Turkey seems willing to refrain from a major cross-border action until at least early next month, when it is scheduled to host foreign ministers for a meeting about Iraq. US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has proposed a meeting among the United States, Iraq and Turkey during the Nov. 2-3 conference in Istanbul.

Almost immediately afterward, Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan is expected to go to Washington to meet with US President George W. Bush. The Turkish leader is likely to reiterate demands that the US-backed government in Iraq take steps to close off supply lines to the PKK and take other measures to reduce the group's effectiveness, possibly including military action. *AP*

TURKISH soldiers take part in a military exercise near the southeast Turkish town of Cizre, some 50 kilometers from Turkey's Habur border gate to Iraq on Oct. 24. REUTERS

Iraq cracks down on Kurd rebels

BAGHDAD—IRAQ'S PRIME minister ordered a crackdown on Tuesday on Kurdish PKK rebels, saying Iraq will no longer tolerate the "terrorist" group on its soil, amid Turkish threats of a military incursion.

"The PKK is a bad terrorist organization and we have taken a decision to close its offices and not allow them to work on Iraqi soil," Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki said after he met visiting Turkish Foreign Minister Ali Babacan.

"We are putting all our efforts to eliminate their terrorist activities that threaten Iraq and Turkey," said Maliki, who has been under pressure from Ankara and Washington to act against the Iraq-based rebels attacking Turkey.

Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari, who is a Kurd, said earlier that Iraq had begun undertaking a series of measures to thwart the rebels, "including restricting their movements, (their) funding and closing of their offices." *AFP*

More than half a million ordered to evacuate in California

EVACUATED residents from nearby areas watch backfires burn a hillside across from the evacuation center at Steele Canyon High School in Spring Valley, California on Oct. 23. AFP

LOS ANGELES—MORE THAN half a million people were ordered to evacuate their homes in southern California as wind-driven wildfires raged for a fourth day on Wednesday, razing whole neighborhoods and threatening to overwhelm weary firefighters.

The evacuation was the largest in the state's history and the fires the worst ever for California, state officials said.

At least one person was killed and 45 injured, including 21 firefighters, in 16 separate fires that have erupted since Sunday and spread quickly across the region fanned by powerful seasonal winds from the desert.

Blazes have so far destroyed nearly 1,300 buildings and scorched at least 166,000 hectares of tinder-dry forest and brush, officials said.

"Our ability to fight these fires outstrips our resources," said firefighter Robin Wills, who battled a blaze in northern San Diego County. "There are only so many engines, so many firefighters to put out there." The evacuations affected people in areas from the Mexican border to north of Los Angeles.

"These fires are causing terrible and tragic devastation in our state but we are responding and we will not stop until everyone is safe," California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said on Tuesday after touring scenes of destruction at the mountain resort town of Lake Arrowhead, 150 kilometers east of Los Angeles.

"We have had an unfortunate situation that we've had three things come together: very dry areas, very hot weather and then a lot of wind," Schwarzenegger said. "And so this makes the perfect storm for a fire."

Many parts of California have experienced record low rainfalls and record high temperatures this year, leaving vast swathes of rugged countryside bordering built-up residential areas at the mercy of fires.

Weather forecasters say they expect the wind to slightly diminish on Wednesday but to remain dangerous. High temperatures and low humidity are expected to remain until Thursday, they said.

The White House announced that President George W. Bush would travel to California on Thursday. Bush declared an emergency in the region early Tuesday and ordered the heads of the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (Fema) to California to help coordinate the federal relief effort.

"We send our prayers and thoughts with those who've been affected and we send the help of the federal government as well," Bush said during a speech Tuesday. *AFP*

Action pressed vs Burma

LONDON—SIX FEMALE NOBEL Peace laureates called on the world to keep up pressure on Burma's (Myanmar's) military junta to restore liberty and democracy in the country.

The seventh living female Peace Prize winner—Aung San Suu Kyi—is in detention in Burma, where she has spent nearly 12 of the last 18 years in prison or under house arrest.

The call comes weeks after the junta's bloody suppression of pro-democracy demonstrations led by Buddhist monks.

"Since Burmese monks courageously took to the streets in September to call for democracy, the Burmese regime has enforced a vicious crackdown on peaceful demonstrators and democratic opposition leaders," the six wrote in a letter in Wednesday's edition of the Guardian newspaper, using the country's former name.

"The Burmese regime must not be allowed to continue in its perpetration of gross violations of human rights. The detention of Aung San Suu Kyi is the most visible manifestation of the regime's brutality but it is only the tip of the iceberg."

The letter was signed by Jody Williams, Shirin Ebadi, Wangari Maathai, Rigoberta Menchu Tum, Betty Williams and Mairead Corrigan Maguire. It said it was supported by former US Secretary of State Madeline Albright. *Reuters*

Ex-Korean president blamed for kidnapping

SEOUL—SOUTH KOREA'S SPY AGENCY said on Wednesday that then-president Park Chung-Hee had approved the infamous 1973 kidnapping in Tokyo of dissident Kim Dae-Jung, who later ruled the country and won the Nobel Peace Prize.

The National Intelligence Service (NIS) also said a 1987 mid-air airplane explosion was committed by North Korean agents.

The NIS was announcing the result of a three-year investigation into two of the most notorious incidents in South Korea's turbulent history. The probe was ordered by current President Roh Moo-Hyun and carried out by a civilian-led "truth committee."

Kim Dae-Jung, a Nobel laureate in 2000, was kidnapped by agents of the NIS's predecessor, the Korean Central Intelligence Agency, from a Tokyo hotel in August 1973.

He was taken to a ship and was about to be thrown overboard before his life was dramatically spared with the intervention of US government authorities.

The dissident was brought back to Seoul and put under years of house arrest.

It has long been a mystery who was behind the abduction, with fingers of blame pointed at either Lee Hu-Rak, Korean CIA head at the time, or President Park himself.

"Alongside the possibility that ex-President Park might have ordered it in person, he must have given at least a tacit approval," the NIS said in a six-volume, 3,300-page report into these and other historical incidents.

The report marked Seoul's first official admission that a state agency was to blame for the kidnapping. South Korean ambassador Yu Myung-Hwan visited the Japanese foreign ministry on Wednesday morning to explain the findings to Senior Vice Foreign Minister Hitoshi Kimura. *AFP*

Indonesia bird flu deaths hit 89

JAKARTA—A 5-YEAR-OLD GIRL IN INdonesia has died of bird flu, raising the toll in the nation worst affected by avian flu to 89, the health ministry said on Wednesday.

The girl is the second child to die of the H5N1 virus in Indonesia this month from Tanggerang, a satellite town just west of Jakarta. A 12-year-old boy from there died on Oct. 13.

"Tests have confirmed that (the girl) was positively infected with the H5N1 virus," said a staff member of the health ministry's bird flu information center who identified himself as Momo.

The latest victim, Dewi Apriliani, had been admitted to a hospital in the capital on Monday. She died a few hours later, he said.

"She had a history of contact with infected poultry. She had contact with four dead chickens in her neighborhood, according to her family," Momo added.

The girl is the 110th human case of bird flu in Indonesia, 89 of which have led to death.

The H5N1 virus is endemic in poultry across most of Indonesia's sprawling archipelago.

Bird flu is usually transmitted directly from infected birds—typically poultry—to humans. However, scientists fear that the virus could eventually mutate into a form easily transmissible between people, triggering a global pandemic that could potentially kill millions.

The latest Indonesian death brings the global toll since outbreaks were first reported in humans in Asia in the 1990s to 204.

Besides Indonesia, deaths since the have been recorded in Azerbaijan, Cambodia, China, Egypt, Iraq, Laos, Nigeria, Thailand, Turkey and Vietnam.

Indonesia has been sharply criticized for being slow to act in its fight to control bird flu, which has spread easily in a nation where many people keep chickens and other birds in their backyards and homes. *AFP*

NAPPING FLAMINGOS

Two flamingos roll in their long necks in a similar way as they both stand on one leg to take a nap in the warming autumn sun at the Frankfurt Zoo, Germany, in this file photo. Keepers at Frankfurt's famed zoo said on Tuesday, Oct. 23, that four of their flamingos were killed by intruders who ripped three of the bird's heads from their bodies. A fourth bird was found strangled to death. AP

NEWSBRIEFS

Space shuttle blasts off

CAPE CANAVERAL—Space shuttle Discovery blasted off on Tuesday for a construction mission at the International Space Station, raising hope that Nasa will be able to add laboratories for European and Japanese partners later this year. The shuttle bolted from its seaside launch pad on time at 11:38 a.m., defying forecasts of poor weather and a potential delay from an ice buildup on its fuel tank. The seven-member crew, led by retired Air Force Col. Pamela Melroy, 46, plans to spend 10 days at the station preparing it for the arrival of Europe's Columbus laboratory in early December. *Reuters*

Somalia frees UN official

MOGADISHU—The Somali government freed a senior UN food aid official on Tuesday, nearly a week after dozens of intelligence officers stormed the World Food Programme's compound in Mogadishu and seized him. "We welcome the release of Idris Osman, and are pleased that he will be reunited with his family," UN World Food Programme (WFP) Executive Director Josette Sheeran said in a statement from the organization's headquarters in Rome. Osman is the local head of the WFP in Somalia. *Reuters*

6 militants nabbed

MADRID—Spanish police have arrested six people linked to an Islamist militant cell that recruited guerrillas through the Internet to fight in Iraq, the Interior Ministry said on Wednesday. Police are searching six homes and a butcher's shop operated by members of the cell and have taken away documents and computers for examination, the Ministry said in a statement. *Reuters*

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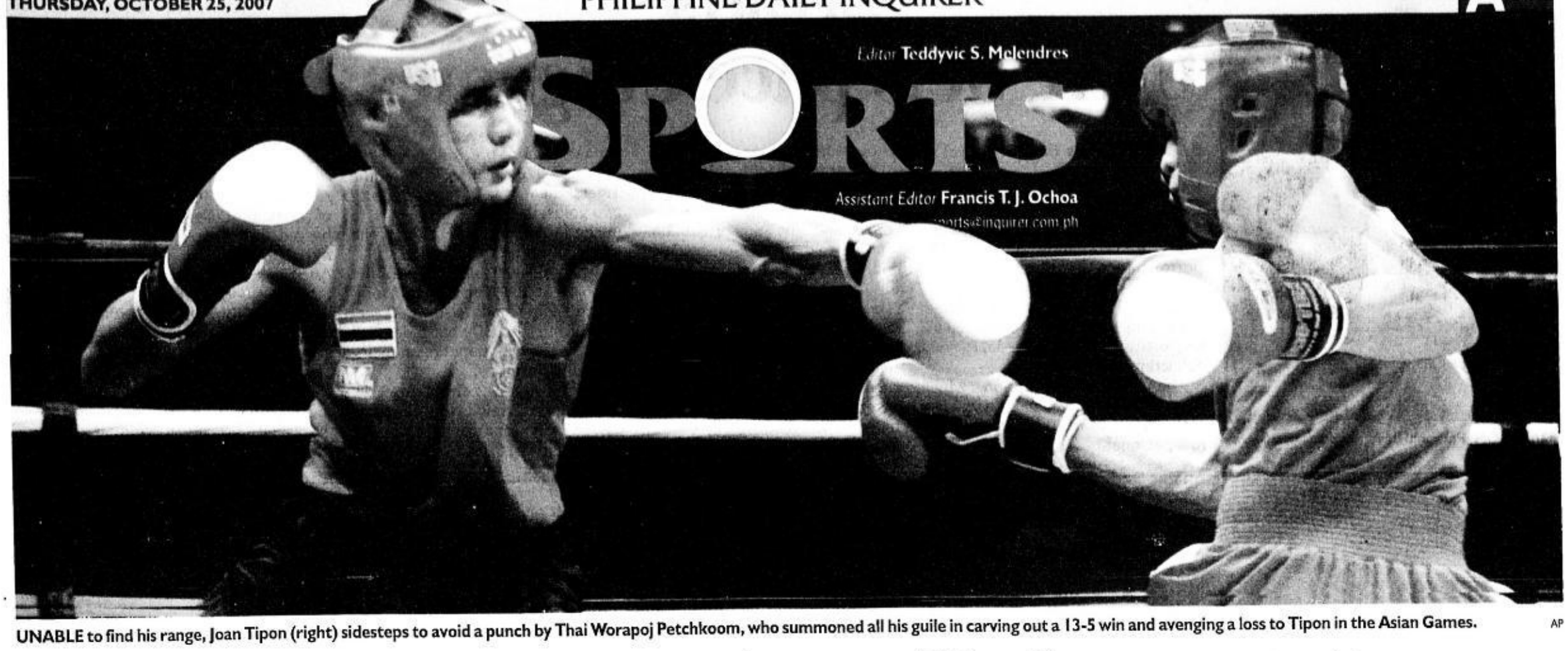


UNABLE to find his range, Joan Tipon (right) sidesteps to avoid a punch by Thai Worapoj Petchkoom, who summoned all his guile in carving out a 13-5 win and avenging a loss to Tipon in the Asian Games. AP

Foxy Thai mauls off-form Tipon

By Dennis U. Eroa
Inquirer/Libre

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS—JOAN TIPON'S Olympic dream will have to wait for now.

The reigning Asian Games bantamweight champion started cold and lost to arch-rival Worapoj Petchkoom of Thailand, 13-5, at the start of the International Amateur Boxing Association World Boxing Championships here Tuesday.

The foxy Thai, who lost to the Filipino in the 2006 Doha Asiad finals, was in complete command after taking a 3-0 lead at the end of a boring, action-less first round as Tipon boxed without his usual flair and confidence.

A handful of Filipino supporters including Philippine Sports Commission chair William Ramirez and 1970 Asian Games gold medalist Ricardo Fortaleza at the University of Illinois-Chicago Pavilion tried to rouse Tipon with lusty cheering to no avail.

In a later match, light-welterweight Delfin Boholst bowed to China's Mai Sun Qiong , 38-15, capping the Filipinos' forgettable opening day campaign.

"Well, that's boxing," said Ramirez. "It's not the end of the world for him and the rest of the national boxing team."

The national boxers are shooting for tickets to Beijing 2008 in this Olympic-qualifying tournament.

Tipon, who lost in the preliminaries of the national open back home, will shoot anew for an Olympic slot next year in Asian qualifiers.

Fortaleza said that Tipon failed to sustain his attack in the later rounds.

"The Thai likes to clinch and Joan wasn't really able to press the action," said Fortaleza, who also hit the "biased" scoring of the judges.

"Terrible. The Thai didn't even throw a punch, yet he was getting the scores," said Fortaleza.

The Thai, scoring mostly to the body, opened a 9-5 lead at the end of the third round then wisely danced and stayed away from trouble by clinching.

National head coach Pat Gaspi acknowledged the loss.

"That's not the true Tipon," said Gaspi. "Now we have to concentrate on our remaining boxers."

It was an observation echoed by deputy coach Ronald Chavez.

"Joan never had the opportunity to find his range. The body blows hurt although some looked dubious."

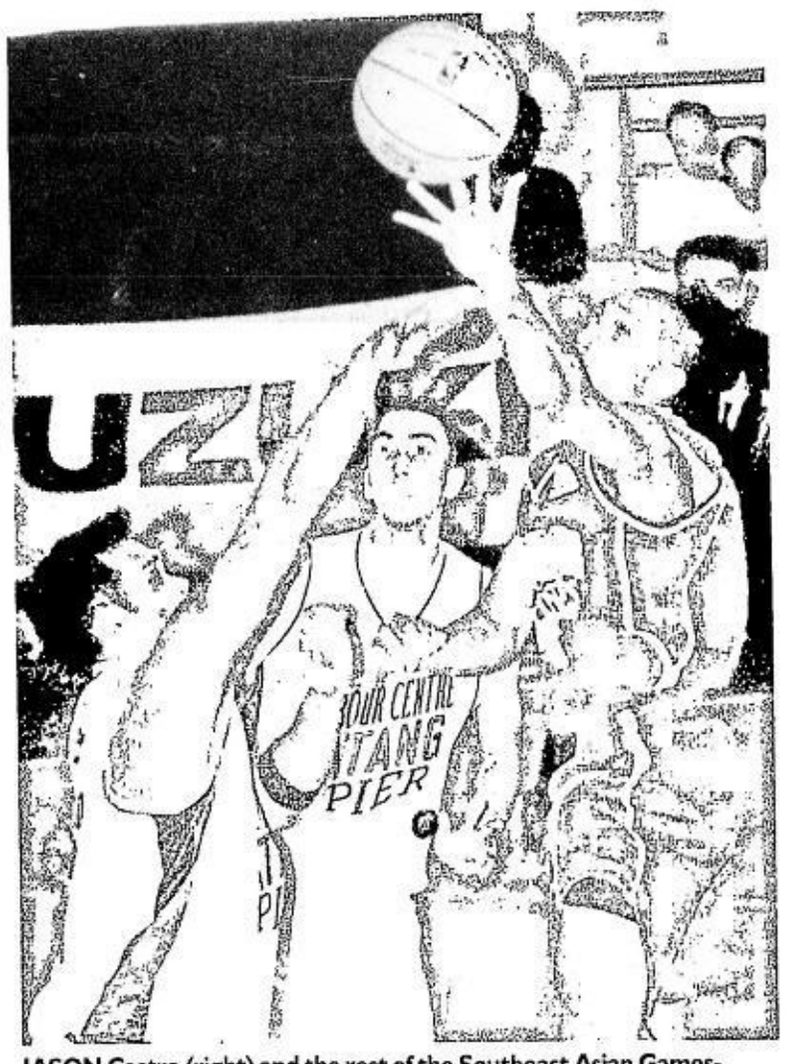
After the draw held earlier at the Palmer House Hilton, event organizers shuffled the schedule. Tipon wasn't scheduled to box Tuesday and learned of the new schedule only after the draw.

Next up for the RP-PLDT-Smart boxing team is featherweight Charly Suarez, who will be tested by Mongolian veteran Zorigbaatar Enkhzarig Wednesday.

Suarez is a rookie in the World Championships like Tipon, Delfin Boholst, lightweight Genebert Basadre and welterweight Willie Lopez.

Flyweight Violito Payla fights Andrew Selby of Wales on Oct. 25, the same day that Basadre battles Bulgarian favorite Kolev Ognyan and Lopez debuts versus Velibor Vedic.

RP five battles Mail and More



JASON Castro (right) and the rest of the Southeast Asian Games-bound cagers hope to put together a better performance this time around after losing their opening game against Harbour Centre. RYAN LIM

GAMES TODAY (*The Arena*)
2 p.m.—Mail and More vs RP Team
4 p.m.—Pharex vs Toyota Balintawak

REDEMPTION FOR THE RP TEAM AND THE top spot for Toyota Balintawak.

Humbled in its debut in the 2008 PBL V-Go Extreme Energy Drink, the national quintet honing its skills for the coming Southeast Asian Games in Thailand tries to avoid further loss of face when it plays Mail and More at 2 p.m. today at The Arena in San Juan.

"They can't take PBL teams lightly," said national coach Baculi of his charges, who absorbed an 83-74 loss from defending champion Harbour Centre last Tuesday.

Meanwhile, the Toyota squad guns for a second straight win and the solo lead over newcomer Pharex in the 4 p.m. main game.

The Road Kings are slightly favored due to their sensational 81-77 win over Bacchus Energy Drink where they overhauled a 21-point deficit.

"JV (Casio) and Cholo (Villanueva) gave us a big lift despite practicing only for four days for the team," said Toyota Balintawak coach Ariel Vanguardia. "We have to play smart and use our experience to win again."

The Pharex Medics are out to avenge their 68-65 defeat to San Mig Coffee in the opener last week.

Baculi admitted that his boys "played badly," and the loss to Harbour should serve as a wake-up call.

The SEAG-bound squad sorely lacked power in the backcourt, especially after Harbour's new acquisition TY Tang outplayed RP counterpart Boyet Bautista. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

FERNANDO

Fernando salvages 71, falls behind by 5

SINGAPORE—ANTHONY FERnando rallied with back-to-back birdies from No. 15 to match par 71, but still trailed by five strokes halfway through the Singapore Open Amateur Championship at the par-71 Singapore Island Country Club's Bukit Course here yesterday.

Counting his first round output of one-under 70, the reigning national champion totaled 141 to fall behind Australian ace Tim Stewart, who sizzled coming home with a flawless 32 on his way to a four-under 67 and a 36-hole aggregate of 136.

FERNANDO/ A24

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'Z' camp denies Darchinyan bout

By Musong R. Castillo

Z "THE DREAM" GORRES WILL NOT fight Vic Darchinyan in an elimination bout for the No. 1 ranking of the International Boxing Federation on Dec. 1, contrary to what popular boxing website sportsnut.com reported yesterday.

While it is true that the IBF had ordered a Gorres-Darchinyan eliminator and that they are willing to face the Armenian-born fighter, Gorres handler Tony Aldeguer yesterday said that they have not signed any fight contract.

The winner of the eliminator will be lined up for a possible title shot opposite Russian super-fly champ Dimitri Kirilov.

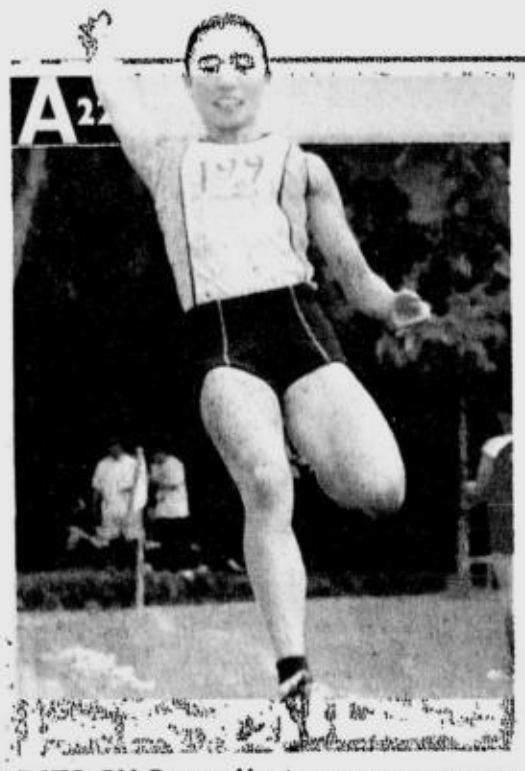
Ironically, it would have been the second title eliminator for Gorres. His last fight against Eric Ortiz of Mexico last Aug. 11 in Sacramento was also an IBF eliminator. Gorres scored an eighth round TKO over Ortiz.

The 27-2-1 Gorres lost a controversial 12th round split decision to Mexico's Fernando Montiel, the WBO super-fly champ, last February in Cebu and would like to get back on track to having another title shot.

"Not true," Aldeguer replied via text when asked of the fight, which Darchinyan's agent Angelo Hyder confirmed to sportsnut.com. "We have not received any offer of the purse or the date of the fight.

"Dec. 1 is out of the question because we have a big promotion on Dec. 2," he added.

A Time For Heroes



DATO-ON: Personal best ANDY ALVAREZ/PDI VISAYAS

UAAP bets pace Unigames

By Cedelf P. Tupas, *Inquirer Visayas*

BACOLOD CITY—FRESHMAN Luville Dato-on of University of Santo Tomas Tomas has a penchant for churning out golden performances in national meets.

It was no different yesterday when the three-time Palarong Pambansa long jump champion added a University Games gold medal to her collection.

The 17-year-old Dato-on, who reigned in the high school division of the Palaro from 2005-2007, leapt to a personal-best of 5.45 meters to rule the women's long jump.

"I'm surprised with this victory because I expected the level of competition here to be higher compared to the Palaro," the San Enrique, Iloilo native told the Inquirer. "Good thing I executed my jump very well".

The silver medal went to Merily Teodisio (5.23m) of Rizal Technological University, while Mariz Contoner of FEU dropped to fourth, after a dismal 4.80 leap, half a meter shorter than her gold-medal winning effort last year.

Dato-on's triumph and Jhonny Espana's record-breaking feat in the men's 5,000 meters made the Tigers the early pacesetters with two golds, two silvers and a bronze in the athletics competition at the University of St. La Salle oval.

Espana, silver medalist in the same event last year, timed 16 minutes, 11.95 seconds to shave 21 seconds from the 10-year-old mark record held by national team member Julius Sermona.

Making it a 1-2 finish for UST was Raquin Trinio, who also surpassed Sermona's clocking by checking in at 16:13.54.

Inton snares 7 swim golds

INTON

ANGELICA INTON of Miriam College bagged seven gold medals in the Athletic Association of Private Schools (AAPS) swimming competition held last Oct. 20 at the Amoranto Sports Complex in Quezon City.

The sophomore student powered Miriam to the overall title in the High School girl division.

Marlon Bernardino, Contributor

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s

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If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

for **RAYMUNDO G. AGRAVANTE**
OIC Regional Director

(PDI – October 25, 2007)

Laguna paces Bicol-SL games

By June Navarro

NAGA CITY—MARK JAKE Reyes thought it was a mediocre run but he still ended up with the gold medal.

Although he failed to improve his personal best in the 5,000 meters, the 17-year-old from San Pablo City easily won to ignite Laguna's five-gold spree in athletics at the start of the Bicol-Southern Luzon qualifying leg of the Philippine Olympic Festival yesterday.

Reyes won in 17 minutes and 12.48 seconds, beating Cavite's tandem of Darwin Lim and Milbert Caranto, who clocked 17:15.72 and 17:29.52, respectively, at the Metro Naga Sports Complex here.

"I failed to beat my record. But I'm glad that I won," said Reyes, who has a personal best of 16:25 seconds in the event. The University of the East education freshman will compete in the 3,000 steeplechase and 10,000m today and the 1,500m on Friday.

Laguna also picked up golds in the boys' 100m dash and shotput, girls' 100m hurdles and discus throw.

John Emil Robles timed 11.5 seconds in the boys' 100m, nipping Cavite's Michael Angelo Baay (11.6) and Cresol Sajirella (11.8).

Julius Sequena heaved the iron sphere to a distance of 13.10 meters to beat another Cavite duo in the boys' shotput.

In the 100m hurdles for girls, Arriane Sumague beat teammate Eunice Balatbat and Camarines Sur's Janeth Romagosa, clinching the gold in 17.2 seconds. Balabat timed 17.6 seconds while Romagosa had 18.1 seconds.

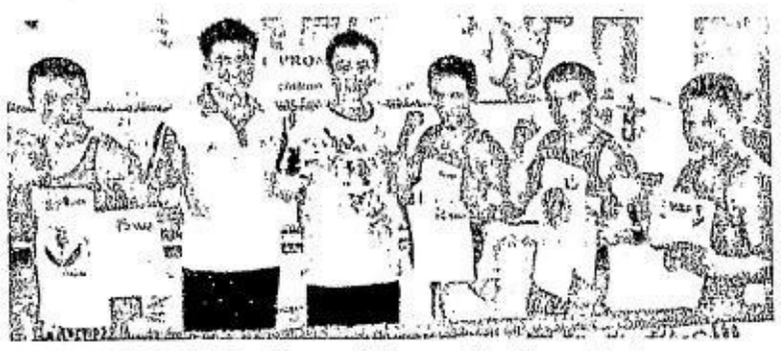
Ira Hernandez completed Laguna's medal haul by topping the discus throw in 29.10 meters, beating Cavite's Kristine Ranario (25.99) and Naga City's Aimee Masalunga (24.27).

Cavite also had a promising start, bagging four of the 10 golds at stake in athletics courtesy of Jill Boragay (girls' 3,000m), Mark David Madera (boys' 110m), Wilma Delare (girls' 100m) and Jeromy Noarin (boys' 800m).

The 16-year-old Boragay, a farmer's daughter, outpaced provincemate Janice Marquez and Camarines Sur's Marilou Javier in 11:24.77.

"I'm happy my friend (Marquez) and I finished on top," said Boragay, who hails from Biong Cabusao, Camarines Sur but represented Sisters of Mary School based in Silang, Cavite.

Noralyn Picaso captured the first gold for Camarines Sur by clocking 2:25.9 in the girls' 800m run.



KICKBOXERS: SKP President and Tagaytay City Mayor Abraham "Bambol" N. Tolentino (3rd from left) with kickboxers Vicenter Valdueza, muay thai president Robert Valdez, Armando Daligdig, Tyrone Naticho and coach Emiliano Z. Dacuyan Jr. The kickboxers are bound for the 2nd Asian Indoor Games slated in Macau Oct. 26-Nov. 3.

Basketball awards up

THE UAAP and NCAA Press Corps will fete the top achievers of the two leagues when the 2007 Collegiate Basketball Awards presented by Anta unfolds tonight at the Coral A Ballroom of the Manila Pavilion.

Coaches of the Year Franz Pumaren of La Salle and Louie Alas of Letran and Most Valuable Players Jervy Cruz of Santo Tomas and Kelvin dela Pena of Mapua lead the the major awardees in the annual rites supported by the Philippine Sportswriters Association, San Miguel Corp., the Philippine Sports Commission, Harbour Centre and Hapee Toothpaste.

San Beda's Ogie Menor and La Salle's JV Casio were the recipients of the San Miguel Scoring Champion plums.

NBC-Spring rips Indons

PENANG, MALAYSIA—NBC-SPRING Cooking Oil bounced back from an opening-day loss to Thailand by blasting Indonesia Basketball League champion Satria Muda-Britama, 81-62, Monday in the 2007 Penang Chief Minister Cup-Asian invitational tournament at the Han Chiang indoor stadium here.

Ex-pros Nelson Asaytono, EJ Feihl and Dondon Villamin waxed hot from the start to power the Cooking Oil Masters of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and Tagaytay Mayor Bambol Tolentino to the lopsided triumph.

Outfitted by Champion Sportswear, NBC-Spring squandered a 37-29 lead at the turn and fell to Thailand's national team, 73-82, in one of the opening matches.

The Philippines battles Iran next in the tough tourney. The Iranians routed Thailand, 100-74 also Monday.

In other games, China's Tianjain bested Singapore, 62-51; Malaysia routed India, 108-65; and Iran's national youth team blasted the Indons, 88-54.

The scores:

NBC-Spring (81)—Asaytono 20, Villamin 17, Feihl 12, Capobres 10, Marquez 7, Epondulan 6, Reyes 5, De Castro 3, Kalaw 1

SM-Britama (62)—Kurniawan 18, Sunarko 12, Sitepu 9, Wijaya 7, Gozali 6, Pratama 4, Damar 2

Quarters: 27-22, 49-34, 67-51, 81-62

Rotary golfest goes to Macau

THE ROTARY GOLF FELLOWSHIP FOUNdation of the Philippines (RGFFP) tournament will go to Macau and Zhuhai for the 12th Asian leg on Nov. 20-24.

Participants will stay at the Venetian Hotel and for three nights at the seaside Harborview Hotel in Zhuhai.

Golf venues will be the Agile Golf and Country Club and the Lakewood Golf Club. Deadline for payment and registration is Nov. 9.

For bookings, contact Maripaz/Len at 5221495 or Pauline Sevilla (0920-9199000), 7248174/7212667 local 110.

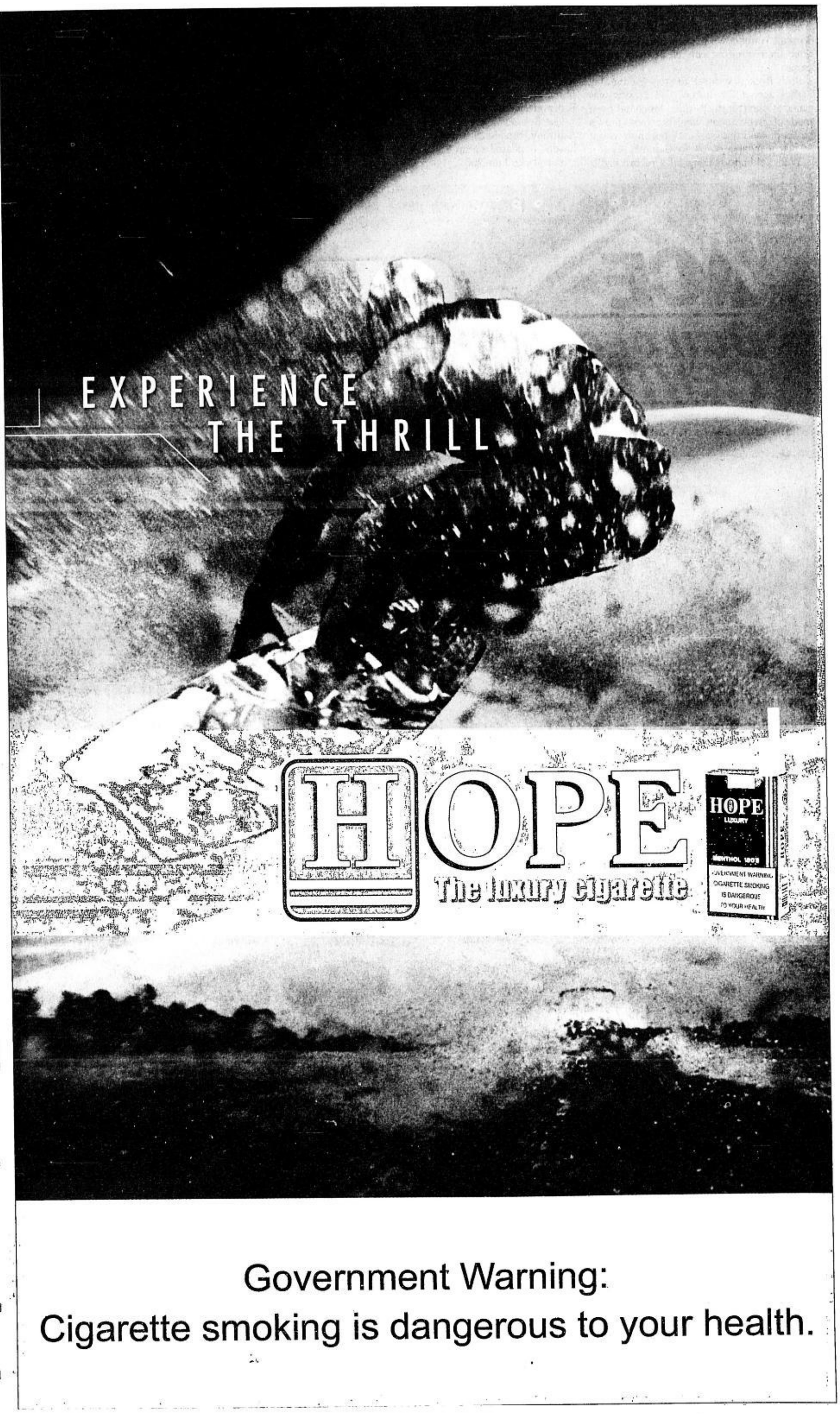
Defending champions are Jun Tan, 68 points, overall; RC-Makati Southwest's Honor Mendoza, 62, Class A; Ben Gaite, 76, and RC Cagayan de Oro's Rey Paduganan, 67, Class B; RC Novaliches' Roberto Pineda, 80, overall champion, Class C.

YAKULT 10 MILER. Michael DS Ong, Yakult Phils. director and manager for sales and planning, race organizer Rudy Biscocho and Yakult executive vice president Akira Onose (from left) sign the memorandum of agreement paving the way for the 18th staging of the Yakult 10 Miler on Dec. 9 at the Quirino Grandstand in Manila.

SPORTSWATCH

Breeder of the Year up

PACESETTERS MIMI ITCHON AND JOEY Abaquita of Rizal shoot for the LGBA Gamecock Breeder of the Year title today as the LGBA Stag Series championship unfolds at the Araneta Coliseum with 90 fights. Out of 421 entries who joined the series, the JA Sudden Strike MI of Itchon and Abaquita banners the field with 14 wins out of 16 fights so far. Mayor Cito Alberto of Catanduanes, once the arch rival of sabong idol Patrick Antonio, has 12 points, the same scores of Boy Tuazon and Joener Letada. The entries of Raffy Campos and Edwin Aranez posted 11 points



SPORTS

Red Sox, Rockies get World Series going

BOSTON—JEFF FRANCIS LOOKED AT Fenway Park and sounded like the wide-eyed World Series rookie he is.

"I'm sure the Red Sox are used to this every day," he said Tuesday, with more than a bit of awe, "but we've never seen anything like this, the bus pulling up into the parking lot, and the trailers and the satellite dishes."

Welcome to the show, Colorado Rockies, a black-and-purple clad club of Tulowitzkis and Torrealbas unknown to many fans even now, after their amazing run of 21 wins in 22 games.

Josh Beckett was set to start Wednesday night's opener for Boston, and Francis was slated to pitch for the Rockies. Much has been made of possible snow when the Series moves to Coors Field this weekend, but there was a 30 percent chance of rain for Game 1.

With Colorado coming off a record eight-day layoff since sweeping Arizona in the NL championship series, there's been a lot of debate about rust vs. rest—and what better place to discuss rust than quirky old Fenway Park, which opened in 1912 and is filled with nearly a century of baseball sounds and smells.

"We will not apologize for winning quickly," Rockies manager Clint Hurdle said to a roomful of laughter.

The new Yankees

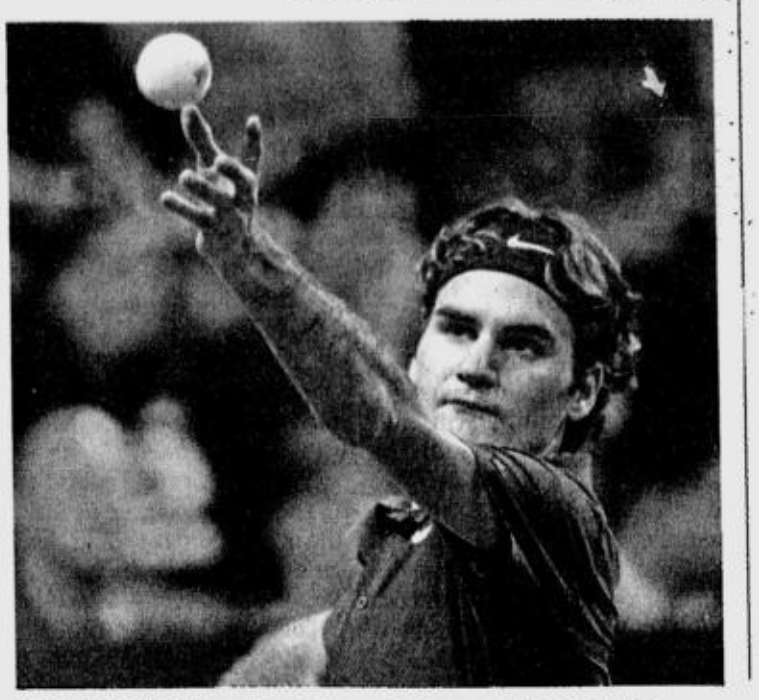
In some ways, the Red Sox have become the Yankees, an October fixture attracting national attention. Manny and his do-rag, Big Papi and Dice-K are TV staples.

The Rockies? They haven't been on a FOX Saturday broadcast since July 2004 and haven't appeared on an ESPN Sunday night telecast since June 2002.

"We've been called favorites since Day 1, and look at us," David Ortiz said, "Here we are dancing and just taking it easy."

Boston overcame a 3-1 deficit in the AL championship series to beat Cleveland. That was nothing compared to what the Red Sox did in 2004, when they became the first baseball team to bounce back from a 3-0 deficit in a best-of-seven postseason series, upending the Yankees. Then they swept the Cardinals for their first World Series title in 86 years.

This season, Boston took over the AL East lead for good on April 18 and ended New York's run of nine straight division titles. The Rockies were fourth in the NL West at just 76-72 when their spurt began Sept. 18. If not for two blown saves by San Diego's Trevor Hoffman, they wouldn't even have even won the wild card and made their first postseason appearance since 1995. *AP*



SWISS ACE: Switzerland's Roger Federer gets back on the winning track, beating Germany's Michael Berrer, 6-1, 3-6, 6-3. Federer was coming off a defeat to David Nalbandian in the recent Madrid Masters. AP

Fernando . . . From page A21

That was four shots up on New Zealand's Nick Gillespie, who had a 71 for a 140 while Fernando shared third place with compatriot Rufino Bayron, who fired a 70, and Taiwanese Chiang Chen-Chih, who matched par 71.

Jhonnel Ababa, who also carded a 70 on the first day, fumbled with a one-over 72 and dropped to 142 in a tie with Thai ace and Nomura Cup third placer Kiradech Aphibarnrat, who matched par for the second straight day.

Ferdie Aunzo actually turned in the day's best score for the Filipino bets with a 69 after an opening 74. Michael Bibat, winner of the event in 2004, settled for a 71 and a 144 total like ICTSI teammate Miko Alejandro (72), Mark Fernando (71), and Singapore's Jonathan Woo (73).

Big J coming home soon

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

MANNY VICTORINO's colleague Abe King does not believe there was anything sinister behind the bullets found in the cager's possession at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

"Manny must have left the bullets in the bag after shooting practice," said the Washington-based Abe, who came to Manila recently to invite Manny and other PBA cage legends to play a series of exhibition games in the United States in March next year to raise funds for PBA Legends USA Foundation, of which he is the chair.

Manny was on the way to Guam when he was held at the airport.

He was later released after posting bail.

* * *

Speaking of Guam, this is a place where visiting Filipinos usually get into trouble at the airport.

A fellow sports scribe was almost nabbed by Guam immigration when a sniffing dog detected an illegal substance in his hand-carried bag.

Immediately our colleague was asked to empty the contents of the bag. Nothing looked suspicious except for a sealed Manila envelop.

Our colleague told airport police that only his dentures were inside, as he gave them a wide, toothless grin to prove it.

The authorities later apologized. Our colleague learned his lesson. From thereon, he wore his dentures every time he traveled, cleaning them first very well before he did.

* * *

Horse owner Reli de Leon has good news for those who have been awaiting the return of Sonny Jaworski to the Philippines.

After a four-month stay in the United States where Reli said Sonny owns two houses, the Big J is coming home on Nov. 4.

"Sonny is now in the call center business, which is the reason for his protracted stay in the US. When he returns to Manila, he will look at the offers that came his way while he was gone," said Reli, who bumped into Sonny in Las Vegas during the Pacquiao-Barrera fight.

"Sonny was driving a brand new black Hummer. He's still very popular wherever he goes, *basta may mga* Filipino."

* * *

BAP-SBP vice chair Ricky Vargas, team sponsor Jean Henri Lhuillier, and close relatives were at the penthouse of the Discovery Suites last Sunday night to welcome the RP ladies cage squad, the Seaba silver medalist, from Phuket, Thailand.

Discovery Suites owner Cynthia Tiu, who has been supporting the team, had planned a surprise party for the ladies that night. From the airport, they boarded a Victory Liner tourist bus provided by staunch supporter Marivic del Pilar, and went to the party place at the Ortigas Center.

Even if they failed to bring home the gold, Ricky V., who represented SBP president Manny V. Pangilinan, lauded the girls for performing way beyond expectations, and gifted each member of the 25-man delegation with a brand new cellphone and a P5,000 load. I learned that PLDT had also given the team some spending money for the week-long event.

For his part, Cebuana's Jean Henri announced that he would be giving the team the P600,000 bonus incentive for a gold medal, instead of the P400,000 for a silver medal.

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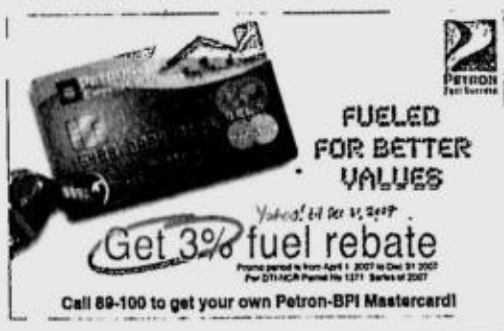


Businessmen remain upbeat on economy

Public-private partnerships key to growth

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE LOCAL BUSINESS community remains upbeat about the Philippines' prospects amid the challenges posed by globalization and the controversies in the political arena.

The optimism is being fueled to a significant degree by the partnership between the public and private sectors which is essential to sustaining the country's rapid economic growth, the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) said.

"Our emphasis is really on this public-private partnership which we need for us to be competitive," PCCI president Samie Lim said. He made his comments on the sidelines of the organization's 33rd Philippine Business Conference and Expo in Manila which runs until tomorrow.

Lim said the PCCI has been laying the groundwork for stronger public-private partnerships for the last five years, and added that the organization's thrust was now beginning to pay off.

"We now have success stories which we could hold up as examples for other businesses to emulate," he said.

Yesterday's sessions focused on the country's re-emergence as a preferred destination for foreign businesses after years of being considered an investment backwater.

Other focal points of the conference will be the challenges and opportunities in major infrastructure projects of the government to sustain economic growth, create more jobs and disperse the effects of economic growth to the rural areas.

Among the guest speakers at the event was US Ambassador to the Philippines Kristie A. Kenney who noted that the rapid economic growth in recent years has put the country

BUSINESSMEN/ B4

Citigroup sees P42.50:$1

By Doris C. Dumlao

US-BASED FINANCIAL GIANT CITIgroup sees the peso heading to 42.50 by yearend given strong foreign inflows from overseas remittances and capital-raising activities by local companies in the fourth quarter.

After breaking into the 42 levels this year, Citigroup expects the peso to further rally to 41.50 six months ahead and to 40.75 in a year's time on stronger foreign investment inflows.

In a commentary dated Oct. 12, Citigroup economist Jun Trinidad said the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' huge foreign exchange losses would also likely make the central bank more discriminate in its intervention to slow down the peso's appreciation.

The peso yesterday closed at 44.28 to a dollar at the Philippine Dealing System from Tuesday's finish of 44.11.

"Strong pressure on the peso this quarter should provide the impetus for more peso appreciation in 2008 barring event risk," Trinidad said.

"A private investment cycle that's just stirring up—energized by privatization activities and upbeat tempo of public investments—could highlight a stronger foreign direct investment outlook next year," Trinidad said.

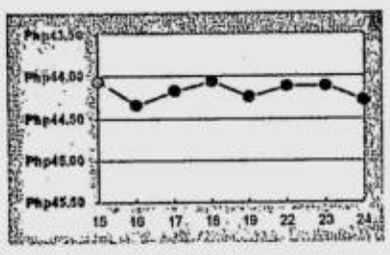
Alongside offshore portfolio in

CITIGROUP/ B4

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE



₱ 44.28 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Oct. 24, 2007

¥ 114.34 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Oct. 24, 2007

GOLD: $756.50-757.00
per ounce Hong Kong, Oct. 23, 2007

STOCK MARKET

Shares rebound after US rally

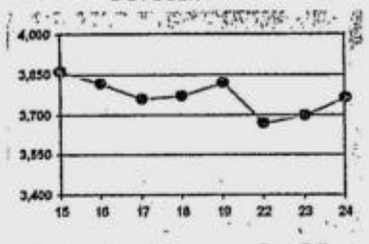
SHARE PRICES CLOSED 1.79-percent higher yesterday as domestic security fears faded and investors took heart from gains on Wall Street overnight, dealers said.

The rise was broad-based, reflecting hopes for positive third-quarter earnings and a cut in interest rates by the US central bank next week, they said.

The composite index added 66.30 points to 3,763.47, after moving between 3,722.77 and 3,772.36.

The broader all-share index rose 35.77 points to 2,339.82.

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX
OCTOBER



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Dealers said Wall Street widely expected the Fed to lower rates again after its half-point cut in September, which was intended to address problems in the credit markets.

SHARES/ B5

IN THIS ISSUE

Ayala Corp. raises size of bond float to P8B/B4

GMA Network posted P1.8-B profit in Jan.-Sept./B5

BIR to pursue cases vs banks on DSTs /B8

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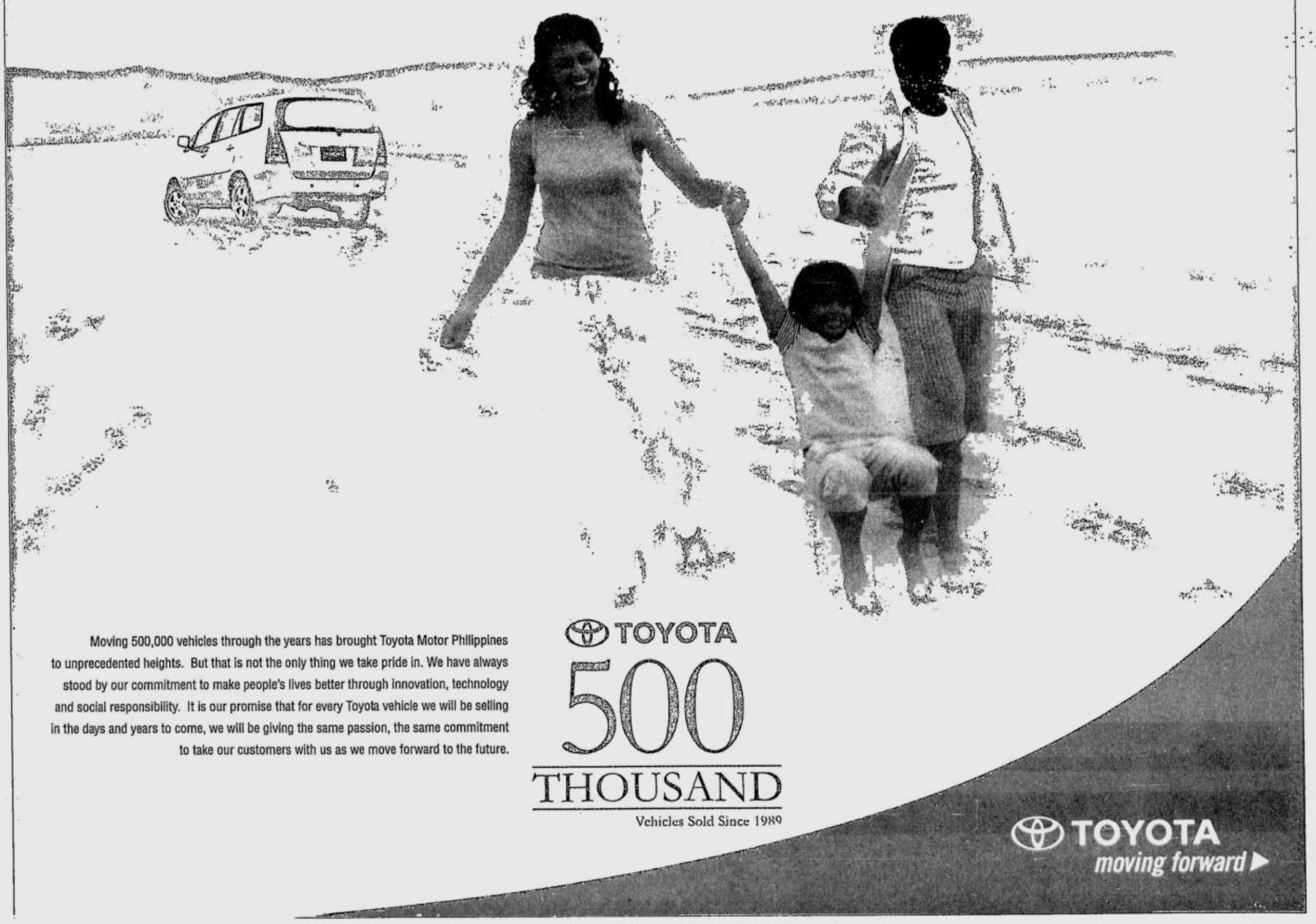

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INSTITUTE OF INTERNAL AUDITORS PHILIPPINES

60TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

ADVOCACY: THE PASSION OF OUR PROFESSION

October 25 – 27, 2007
Pryce Plaza Hotel, Cagayan De Oro City

MESSAGES

Warmest greetings to the **Institute of Internal Auditors Philippines (IIAP)** as you hold your *60th Annual Convention.*

Your theme, "Advocacy: the Passion of Our Profession," shows your commitment to constantly improve the skills and technical know-how of your members to keep them abreast of global trends. This also emphasizes your advocacy to promote transparency and prudence in corporate and government spending.

Indeed, the Philippines is now experiencing a strong economic turnaround because of your contribution in curbing corruption and in checking wasteful and unnecessary spending. As active partners of government, I ask all of you to join me in our efforts to move our country forward toward greater political stability and economic prosperity.

Mabuhay!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President, Republic of the Philippines

This year's Convention Theme, **Advocacy: The Passion of Our Profession**, is most fitting to the Institute of Internal Auditors Philippines' continuing mission to champion governance and quality in practicing our profession. As I have emphasized in my message during my induction to the presidency, of this prestigious organization, we have indeed taken on a commitment. Together, we serve.

Our role as internal auditors continues to evolve as the business landscape moves toward a dynamic business environment characterized by globalization and borderless economies. Our advocacy has always been to equip our internal auditors with the skills and attributes that are responsive to the changing expectations of our stakeholders in this new economic and business environment.

The theme for this year's Convention mirrors the continuing efforts of your Institute to ensure that the internal auditing profession is regarded as an important enabler of good governance and partner for success of every organization.

What is also most auspicious is that his year marks the Diamond Year for this annual event! I believe that this is the culmination of every President's leadership and living testimony of his legacies. I am proud to be among the leaders of this organization characterized by its members' deep sense of commitment and our passion in promoting the highest professional standards of the internal auditing profession. I also believe that this passion will never fade – it will forever glow in the heart of every internal auditor.

To the men and women of the Institute, my best personal wishes and heartiest of congratulations on this 60th Annual Convention. The journey that started 60 years ago has not stopped. We continue to surge onwards, collectively buoyed by our integrity and service to the profession.

LEONARDO J. MATIGNAS, JR.
IIAP President

On behalf of the Board of the Directors and the Convention Committee, it gives us pleasure to welcome the sponsors, delegates, speakers and guests to the 60th Annual Convention of the Institute of Internal Auditors Philippines in this adventure city of the south - Cagayan de Oro.

This most anticipated yearly gathering has been a venue in sharing knowledge, exchanging ideas, benchmarking and renewing a nd making new friends in the profession. For this year, the convention committee has organized a meaningful and stimulating program with distinguished keynote speakers, relevant topic presentations from acclaimed local and foreign speakers who are experts in their fields to be concluded by an adventure tour of the island..

The theme "Advocacy, the Passion of our Profession" encompasses the myriad ways your Institute can serve you our stakeholders by helping you improve your craft so that in turn, you can make a difference in your own organizations.

As director-in-charge, I would like to wish everyone a rewarding and pleasant stay in Cagayan de Oro City.

AMADOR A. RACPAN
2007 Convention BOD-in-charge

Welcome to the 60th Annual Convention of the Institute of Internal Auditors Philippines! The IIAP has indeed come a long way! And what a best way to celebrate it than in the City of Golden Friendship, Cagayan De Oro City!

This convention highlights the theme "Advocacy: the Passion of our Profession." Indeed, our ability to focus our thoughts and attention to our goals will keep us armed in facing the challenges and changes affecting our profession. Our passion to continuously deliver objective and innovative solutions to our respective organizations and clients will broaden our image as a powerful force of positive change and improvement in our society.

This year's annual convention aims to impart insights, practical approaches and practices on enhancing further the effectiveness and strengthen the capabilities of our professionals. In addition, there will be fellowship activities to build and increase your network of associates and friends and the launching of the 60th IIAP anniversary to commemorate this significant milestone.

On behalf of the 2007 IIAP Convention Committee, I wish you an enjoyable, productive and memorable Annual Convention!

WARLITO S. DONAIRE, CPA, CIA
2007 Convention Chairman

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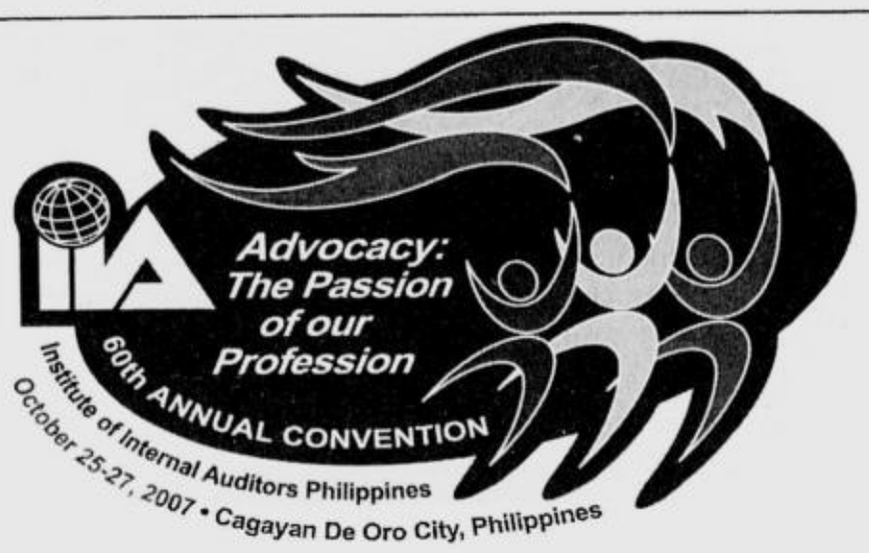

PROGRAM OF ACTIVITES

Day 1	**October 25 (THURSDAY)**
12:00 – 2:30	Registration & Luncheon
2:30 – 3:30	Opening Remarks **Mr. Leonardo J. Matignas Jr. – IIAP President** Sycip, Gorres & Velayo (SGV & Co.) Welcome Remarks **Hon. Constantino Jaraula** Mayor, Cagayan De Oro City Keynote Address **Hon. Oscar Moreno** Governor, Misamis Oriental
3:45 – 4:45	Whistle Blowing in the Philippines: Awareness,Attitudes and Structures **Ms. Heidi Mendoza** Philippine Development Forum, Governance and Anticorruption Working Group Secretariat
4:45 – 5:45	Internal Audit and Audit Committee in Government **Mr. Bob Mcdonald** Director – Risk Management, Queensland Department of Main Roads
5:45 – 6:45	Keep Watch: Anti-Money Laundering **Mr. John McFarland** Country Manager, Hill & Associates, Singapore
6:45 – 7:00	FREE TIME
7:00 – 11:00	Dinner & Socials, Gala Night: Cultural Show & Awarding of Certificates
Day 2	**October 26, 2007 (FRIDAY)**
8:00 – 9:00	Public Speaking the Easy Way **Ms. Lourdes Felix** Charter President, Fort Bonifacio Toastmaster Club
9:00 – 10:00	The Role of Internal Auditor in a New Risk Environment **Mr. Reynaldo De Dios** President, Reynaldo De Dios & Co.
10:15 – 11:15	Managing IT Audit Function for Competitive Advantage **Mr. Frank Yam** Chief Executive, Focus Strategic Group
11:15 – 2:00	GROUP PICTURE & LUNCHEON
2:00 – 3:00	Corporate Ethics and Accountability **Atty. Rene G. Bañez** SVP & Corporate Governance Advisor, PLDT
3:00 – 4:00	Internal Audit Trends **Mr. Mike Evans** TeamMate Asia Pacific Leader PricewaterhouseCoopers,Hongkong
4:15 – 5:15	Me, Inc: Unleashing the Power of the New Professionals **Ms. Cecille V. Huidem** SVP Human Resource Management, Grepalife
5:15 – 7:00	FREE TIME
7:00 – 11:00	Launching of the 60th IIA-P Anniversary Dinner & Socials
Day 3	**October 27 (SATURDAY)** White Water Rafting or Bukidnon Countryside Tour

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Yap bats for more investments in agriculture sector

By Amy R. Remo

MORE INVESTments in the local agriculture sector are needed if the country wants to achieve the target of halving the number of "extremely poor" by 2015, according to Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap.

He noted that the World Bank report released last week had underscored this need and stressed that more funds in the farm sector could substantially reduce the number of poor, or those living on $1 a day.

In the Philippines, however, the agriculture sector receives only a paltry share of the total investments.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas also reported that in March, only 5.7 percent of all outstanding loans in the country went to agricultural projects despite the Agri-Agra Law, which requires banks to allocate 20 percent of their "loanable" funds for agricultural projects.

At the same time, only 1.33 percent of the total foreign direct investments in 2006 went to agriculture, according to the Board of Investments.

Considering that agriculture accounts for a fifth of the country's gross domestic product and employs nearly 2 out of every 5 Filipino workers, these loan and investment figures were measly.

"The biggest challenge for DA is how to accelerate agribusiness growth to sufficiently increase farmers' incomes and provide jobs especially in the countryside," Yap said.

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Ayala Corp. raises size of bond float to P8B

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

CONGLOMERATE AYALA CORP. has secured the consent of its board of directors to raise its planned bond offer to P8 billion from P7 billion.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) yesterday, Ayala general counsel Renato Marzan said the principal amount was P5 billion with an option to increase the offer to P8 billion.

The amendment, which will be contained in a revised registration statement, will be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

An INQUIRER source privy to the bond deal said this was a proactive way to increase the size should demand improve once the bonds were offered.

Ayala earlier said it planned to issue P5 billion in five-year fixed rate peso corporate bonds as it continues to build up cash for 2008.

Ayala is in talks with a consortium of six banks to underwrite the peso bond led by BPI Capital. The issue date for the bonds, at the earliest, may be this month until the end of November.

"Essentially this transaction is along the line of what we have been doing since last year, which is prepaying higher costing debt with lower costing ones given the liquidity in the market, where peso funds can be sourced at very attractive terms, including at much lower rates," Ayala treasurer Ramon G. Opulencia earlier said.

"This is also in line with our thrust to continue to focus on sourcing our funding from the domestic market or lowering our dependence in the offshore market," Opulencia had said.

Over the years, Ayala has shifted its debt mix to 81 percent in pesos and 19 percent in dollars compared with 90:10 foreign-local ratio in the past.

"This is in line with the continuing commitment to provide alternative investments to investors in the market, similar to what we have done in the past three years," Opulencia had said.

In 2004, Ayala issued P7 billion in bonds, the biggest corporate peso bond issuance in history. Last year, Ayala also issued preferred shares worth P5.8 billion. As of June this year, net debts were down to $278 million from $464 million in December 2006.

Ayala's prepayment of debts since the start of the year has generated savings of about P500 million over the remaining life of the debts.

Proceeds from Ayala's value realization initiatives and healthy dividend flows from subsidiaries placed the company's cash level at P20 billion by the end of the first half, giving the company flexibility to further reduce debt and financing expenses. Net debt as of the end of the first semester was at P13 billion.

PLDT seen hitting profit target

By Riza T. Olchondra

PHILIPPINE LONG DISTANCE TELEphone Co. (PLDT) said it expected to hit its upgraded net profit target of P34 billion for this year.

Company chair Manuel Pangilinan told reporters yesterday at the sidelines of the Philippine Business Conference and Expo at the Manila Hotel that better-than-expected subscriber growth was helping boost profit.

The company's original profit target for this year was P32 billion, just slightly higher than the P31.5 billion in profit generated in 2006.

PANGILINAN

The company's subscriber base has grown to 28.3 million as of Oct. 1.

"We had 24 million subscribers last year. Originally we planned to have 27 million by the end of this year. But right now it (could be) around 29 to 30 million, so it was better than expected," he said.

In the first quarter of the year, PLDT reported having 26 million subscribers and a net income of P8.57 billion.

PLDT president and CEO Napoleon Nazareno had said that core net income rose 13 percent to P17.2 billion during the first half, so core earnings for the year would likely exceed the previously announced target of P33 billion.

Sale of PNOC-EC shares set

By Abigail L. Ho

PNOC EXPLORATION CORP. EXpects to privatize 60 percent of the government's stake in it within the first quarter of 2008.

PNOC-EC president Rafael del Pilar said the state firm, parent firm Philippine National Oil Co. and financial advisers Citibank and ATR Kim Eng were now studying how to structure the company's privatization.

He said that considering the strength of the stock market, some of the shares to be privatized would be sold to the public through an additional listing.

PNOC-EC is already listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Part of the shares up for privatization would be sold to a "cornerstone investor," similar to the privatization method adopted by PNOC Energy Development Corp., he said.

He said the specific sizes of the additional offer and the block sale have yet to be finalized.

Roadshows, however, have already been scheduled for late January to early February. These would be conducted in Hong Kong, Singapore, London, New York and Paris.

"Our advisers are now conducting due diligence. We are having our reserves certified because we need to have a certification from a third party. We're in the process of valuing the company," he told reporters yesterday.

PNOC-EC has stakes in nine service contracts, including a 10-percent shareholding in the Malampaya Deep Water Gas-to-Power project in offshore Palawan.

According to the proposed timetable for the secondary offering, drawing up the privatization plan and the valuation would take around two weeks, with the conduct of a due-diligence audit and the acquisition of stockholder approval to take another six weeks.

Applying for the sale of new shares, getting the necessary regulatory approvals, pre-marketing, conducting a management roadshow, allocating to international investors, and actually listing the shares will be completed in another 14 weeks.

The block sale should be done soon after.

Citigroup sees P42.50:$1

From page B1

vestment, Trinidad said the capital flows would augment the expected $12-$13 billion in overseas Filipino remittances next year.

"Abating pressure on gross international reserves (GIR) from lower external public debt sector payments indirectly supports favorable local currency prospects," he said.

GIR, a key indicator of the country's ability to service the foreign exchange requirements of the economy, consists of the BSP's gross foreign currency holdings, gold reserves, foreign investments and special drawing rights from the International Monetary Fund.

"BSP's reported financial losses exceeding P40 billion into the third quarter of 2007 arising from exchange and liquidity management would probably curb its appetite for foreign exchange reserve accumulation and ensuing swap activities while selectively protecting the peso on the downside," Trinidad said.

But the economist said a downside break of the key barrier at 44:$1, which the BSP had been trying to preserve in the last few weeks, was inevitable.

"A weak US dollar across the region and resurgent onshore risk appetite as the equity market hit a new high above 3,800 provided a positive backdrop for the local currency," Trinidad said.

He said lackluster corporate demand into the tailend of the import season (third quarter) would likely sustain dollar sell-offs.

Were it not for strong BSP intervention particularly at ranges close to 44, he said the peso would have been trading at the 43 levels now.

Businessmen ...

From page B1

back on the radar screen of foreign investors.

She pointed out that the country's progress was aided by it ability to leverage its advantages in the fields of tourism, natural resources and its people, which she described as "the country's greatest resource."

The US envoy stressed that, to be able to progress further, the local business community must also move to protect the environment.

The business community must also "keep investing in people" especially in training the country's future workforce.

"The Filipino is a great competitive advantage," she said.

Finally, Kenney urged the business community to "invest in peace" especially in Mindanao, which makes up a third of the country's landmass and provides an even higher percentage of the country's agricultural output.

Today's sessions will feature House Speaker Jose C. de Venecia Jr., Sen. Francis Pangilinan, Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. chair Ephraim Genuino and Supreme Court Senior Associate Justice Leonardo A. Quisumbing.

CURRENCIES

October 24, 2007

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.700967	1.000000	44.1150
Japan	Yen	0.006103	0.008706	0.3841
United Kingdom	Pound	1.438034	2.051500	90.5019
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.090443	0.129026	5.6920
Switzerland	Franc	0.597484	0.852370	37.6023
Canada	Dollar	0.725639	1.035197	45.6677
Singapore	Dollar	0.479163	0.683574	30.1559
Australia	Dollar	0.624971	0.891583	39.3322
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.860810	2.654632	117.1091
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.187399	0.267344	11.7939
Brunei	Dollar	0.477530	0.681245	30.0531
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000076	0.000109	0.0048
Thailand	Baht	0.022239	0.031726	1.3996
UAE	Dirham	0.190901	0.272339	12.0142
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.426600	62.9345
Korea	Won	0.000764	0.001090	0.0481
China	Yuan**	0.093404	0.133250	5.8783
Denmark	Kroner	0.134141	0.191366	8.4421
India	Rupee	0.017715	0.025272	1.1149
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.207941	0.296648	13.0866
New Zealand	Dollar	0.526489	0.751089	33.1343
Sweden	Kroner	0.108935	0.155407	6.8558
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.021516	0.030695	1.3541

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—Oct. 23, 2007

* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen. ** Asian time closing rate as of Oct. 23, 2007

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 24, 2007)

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
17.5	6.4	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc.	8.9	8.9	8.7	8.7	37,000
73	43	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	62	62.5	61.5	62	1,708,900
73.5	53	Bank of the Philippine Islands	66	68.5	66	68	375,400
748	528	China Banking Corp.	710	710	705	710	770
23.5	18.5	Citystate Savings Bank	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	300
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank Inc	0.45	0.45	0.43	0.44	780,000
75.5	44	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.	60.5	61	59.5	60.5	4,040,700
65.5	34.5	Philippine National Bank	48.5	49.5	48.5	49	480,500
68	42	Philippine Savings Bank	62.5	62.5	62.5	62.5	500
39.57	15.65	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	29.5	29.5	28	28	1,596,500
90	55	Security Bank Corp.	76	76.5	76	76.5	55,000
66	44.51	Union Bank of the Philippines	50	50	50	50	23,500
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
5.6	1.92	ATR KimEng Financial Corp.	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	32,000
2.22	0.6	Bankard Inc.	1.98	2	1.98	2	2,271,000
16.25	4.35	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	12.25	13.25	12	13.25	2,057,500
42.5	29	First Metro Investment Corp.	42	42	42	42	200
5.9	4.9	I-Remit Inc.	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.4	1,122,000
5	2.95	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	3.4	3.5	3.35	3.45	727,000
3.1	1.1	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.	1.98	1.98	1.98	1.98	10,000
1,130.00	241	The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc	1,015.00	1,035.00	1,015.00	1,035.00	27,100
2,355.00	1,945.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,330.00	2,335.00	2,330.00	2,335.00	270
1.94	1.3	iVantage Corp	1.56	1.58	1.56	1.58	375,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
6.2	3.8	Aboitiz Power Corp.	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.2	2,072,000
70.5	49	First Gen Corp.	62	62	61	61.5	1,661,800
92	51	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	86	86	85.5	86	265,500
17.5	8.8	Manila Water Co. Inc.	16.75	17	16.5	17	1,553,700
105.45	23.18	Manila Electric Co.	80	82	80	82	1,040,600
7.8	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	7.2	7.5	7.2	7.5	34,881,000
6.8	3.9	Petron Corp.	6.6	6.7	6.5	6.7	4,838,000
14.75	6.6	Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc.	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	25,000
1.9	0.99	Trans-Asia Oil & Energy Dev't Corp.	1.42	1.48	1.42	1.46	1,816,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
6.3	3.2	Alaska Milk Corp.	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.2	48,000
2.95	1.66	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	1.86	1.86	1.8	1.8	121,000
61	39	Jollibee Foods Corp.	52	52.5	52	52.5	606,500
0.98	0.5	RFM Corp.	0.76	0.77	0.76	0.76	590,000
3.8	2.06	Roxas Holdings	2.85	2.85	2.8	2.8	25,000
80	58.5	San Miguel Corp. "A"	59	60	59	59.5	71,600
88	59.5	San Miguel Corp. "B"	61	61.5	61	61	130,800
6.5	2	Tanduay Holdings Inc.	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.9	14,000
22	13.75	Universal Robina Corp.	14.25	14.25	13.75	14	8,109,100
0.55	0.26	Vitarich Corp	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	50,000
		CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
6.1	2.64	EEI Corp	5.2	5.6	5.2	5.6	6,880,000
9.2	4.95	Holcim Philippines Inc.	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.2	4,000
7	2.3	Republic Cement Corp.	4.3	4.5	4.3	4.5	237,000
2	0.44	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc.	1.12	1.12	1.08	1.1	8,832,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	3.75	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	4.6	4.6	4.45	4.45	2,480,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
0.75	0.17	Picop Resources Inc	0.39	0.4	0.38	0.39	10,330,000
		HOLDING FIRMS					
3.9	2.55	A. Soriano Corp.	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	99,000
0.17	0.039	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	12,770,000
1.28	0.235	APC Group Inc.	0.7	0.73	0.69	0.72	12,480,000
3.65	1.5	ATN Holdings Inc. "A"	2.8	2.85	2.75	2.8	203,000
3.7	1.5	ATN Holdings Inc. "B"	2.6	3	2.5	3	10,000
0.019	0.0075	Abacus Cons. Res. & Hold'gs Inc. "B"	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	3,200,000
9.7	5.6	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	7.1	7.1	7	7	10,585,000
0.021	0.0075	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	136,300,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	5.7	5.7	5.5	5.6	1,541,000
1.38	0.54	Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc.	0.82	0.82	0.8	0.8	130,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.36	2.36	2.28	2.32	2,683,000
615	397.92	Ayala Corp.	560	590	560	585	272,830
5.8	1.42	Benpres Holdings Corp.	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.35	3,555,000
10.25	4.7	DMCI Holdings Inc.	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	2,350,000
6.9	1.08	Eton Properties Philippines Inc.	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	9,000
8	2.55	Filinvest Development Corp.	6.7	6.8	6.7	6.8	12,000
3.55	1.54	House of Investments Inc.	2.04	2.04	2.02	2.04	270,000
14.5	7.8	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	11	11	11	11	300,000
5.9	0.61	Jolliville Holdings Corp.	1.8	1.82	1.8	1.82	29,000
11.5	1.48	Minerales Industrias Corp.	6.7	6.8	6.2	6.8	10,374,000
8.5	2.9	PAL Holdings Inc.	7.1	7.3	7.1	7.1	344,000
0.28	0.013	Pacifica Inc. "A"	0.21	0.215	0.2	0.21	175,160,000
0.75	0.185	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.45	0.48	0.45	0.48	3,560,000
2.1	1.2	Republic Glass Holdings Corp.	1.62	1.62	1.62	1.62	100,000
452.5	261.34	SM Investments Corp.	375	377.5	372.5	372.5	639,310
0.73	0.13	Sinophil Corp.	0.41	0.43	0.41	0.42	6,830,000
1.6	0.9	South China Resources Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	215,000
23	1	TKC Steel Corp.	18	18	18	18	37,000
0.75	0.1	Wellex Industries Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.33	0.35	2,660,000
1.1	0.26	Zeus Holdings Inc	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	200,000
		PROPERTY					
2.34	1	A Brown Co. Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.38	1.38	341,000
8.9	5	Anchor Land Holdings Inc	7.8	7.8	7.6	7.8	45,000
1.06	0.32	Araneta Properties Inc.	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	100,000
19.25	11.88	Ayala Land Inc.	16.5	17	16.5	16.5	15,215,300
1.88	1	Belle Corp.	1.32	1.36	1.3	1.36	1,861,000
4.7	2.9	Cebu Holdings Inc.	4.15	4.35	4.15	4.35	322,000
2.04	1.56	Cebu Prop. Venture & Dev't Corp."A"	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	49,000
2.7	1.2	Cityland Development Corp.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	59,000
0.86	0.39	Crown Equities Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	300,000
0.83	0.24	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.44	0.45	0.43	0.43	3,300,000
0.99	0.52	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.77	0.78	0.76	0.77	4,010,000
0.47	0.055	Ever Gotesco Resources & Hold'gs Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	2,800,000
1.48	0.61	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	1.08	1.12	1.04	1.1	11,818,000
2.44	1.26	Filinvest Land Inc.	1.82	1.82	1.78	1.82	74,549,000
0.49	0.11	Gotesco Land Inc. "A"	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	210,000
0.5	0.12	Gotesco Land Inc. "B"	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.29	400,000
1.12	0.31	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.6	0.65	0.59	0.61	1,010,000
4.6	1.85	Megaworld Corp.	4.35	4.4	4.2	4.35	41,075,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.8	279,000
0.7	0.125	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	50,000
0.87	0.32	Philippine Realty & Holdings Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	710,000
23	14	Robinson Land Corp.	20.25	20.25	20	20.25	68,900
5.9	1.52	SM Development Corp.	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.15	646,000
13.5	6.96	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	11.75	12	11.75	12	5,371,500
3.25	1.22	Shang Properties Inc.	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	142,000
1.34	0.46	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	0.61	0.61	0.61	0.61	200,000
0.49	0.09	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	300,000
7.5	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc	5.9	5.9	5.6	5.8	7,659,000
		MEDIA					
38.5	18.75	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	33	33	32.5	32.5	45,300
11.75	8	GMA Network Inc.	8.2	8.3	8.2	8.3	220,000
1.14	0.9	Manila Bulletin Publishing Corp.	1	1	1	1	50,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.1	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc.	1.48	1.48	1.44	1.44	65,000
1,740.00	1,110.00	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,720.00	1,720.00	1,705.00	1,710.00	53,110
3,285.00	2,250.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	3,055.00	3,105.00	3,055.00	3,090.00	164,280
8.1	4.8	Pilipino Telephone Corp	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	7,891,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
12	2	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	9.4	9.7	9.4	9.6	391,000
11.5	2	IPVG Corp.	8.8	9	8.6	8.7	1,472,000
0.065	0.027	ISM Communications Corp.	0.043	0.043	0.04	0.042	81,100,000
29.5	8.5	Imperial Resources Inc. "A"	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	14,000
2.9	1.48	Ionics Inc.	1.64	1.64	1.64	1.64	1,000
0.32	0.044	Island Information & Technology Inc.	0.185	0.195	0.185	0.195	7,370,000
2.08	1.1	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.36	1.36	1.34	1.36	84,000
0.0725	0.03	PhilWeb.Com Inc.	0.055	0.055	0.0525	0.055	101,300,000
5.8	1.34	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l Inc	2.85	2.9	2.75	2.9	2,311,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
6.8	3.6	Asian Terminals Inc	4.15	4.15	4.15	4.15	57,000
42.5	18.5	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	40	40.5	40	40.5	1,026,800
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
4.25	1.8	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	80,000
4.55	2.8	Philippine Racing Club Inc.	3.65	3.65	3.65	3.65	1,000
0.98	0.32	Premiere Entertainment Prod Inc.	0.58	0.6	0.58	0.6	870,000
1.2	0.5	Waterfront Philippines Inc	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	40,000
		EDUCATION					
3.7	2.6	iPeople Inc	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	1,350,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
6	1.96	Macroasia Corp.	5.1	5.2	5	5.2	294,000
17.25	9.8	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	12.5	12.75	12.25	12.25	147,100
30	10.5	Paxys Inc	11.75	11.75	11	11.25	2,898,200
		MINING					
0.017	0.0065	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.012	49,200,000
7.6	3.6	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "A"	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	228,000
7.7	3.85	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "B"	5.3	5.5	5.3	5.5	92,000
21.25	7.8	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	15.5	15.75	15.25	15.5	3,658,400
14.25	8.9	Benguet Corp. "A"	12	12	12	12	20,000
10.5	1.8	Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc.	7.1	8.6	7.1	8.5	3,202,000
3.1	0.57	Geograce Resources Philippines Inc.	2.34	2.4	2.18	2.4	170,485,000
0.39	0.18	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "A"	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	63,070,000
0.42	0.22	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "B"	0.35	0.37	0.35	0.35	2,270,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. "A"	0.027	0.027	0.026	0.026	83,200,000
0.041	0.02	Manila Mining Corp. "B"	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.029	8,000,000
30	1.98	NIHAO Minerals Resources Int'l Inc.	22.5	23.5	21.25	23.25	6,666,300
0.021	0.0079	Omico Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.013	86,600,000
9.7	3.5	Philex Mining Corp.	9.1	9.3	9	9.1	22,764,000
43.5	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	41	41	40	40.5	19,700
1.36	0.47	United Paragon Mining Corp.	0.96	0.98	0.96	0.98	950,000
1.8	0.65	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp	1.2	1.24	1.2	1.24	102,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.25	Basic Energy Corp.	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.34	9,030,000
0.029	0.0095	Oriental Pet. & Minerals Corp. "A"	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	95,000,000
0.03	0.01	Oriental Pet. & Minerals Corp. "B"	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	44,700,000
29	8.6	PNOC Exploration Corp. "B"	23	23	22.5	22.5	1,000
11.75	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	10	10	10	10	20,000
0.032	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp	0.027	0.027	0.026	0.027	226,800,000

AVERAGES			VOLUME	VALUE
Financial	943.68 UP	14.59	15,721,140	520,954,375.00
Industrial	4,676.20 UP	70.80	86,682,600	762,555,745.00
Holding Firms	2,110.71 UP	43.22	386,881,140	655,928,380.00
Property	1,729.08 UP	27.09	172,890,700	705,000,355.00
Service	1,867.34 UP	30.05	209,295,790	777,082,625.00
Mining & Oil	7,781.81 UP	138.00	876,078,400	875,679,940.00
All Shares Index	2,339.82 UP	35.77		
PSEI	3,763.47 UP	66.30		
	GRAND TOTALS		1,747,549,770	4,297,201,420.00

COMPILED BY SCHATZI QUODALA, INQUIRER RESEARCH

SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK, PSE

33RD PBCE OPENING
Japanese Ambassador to the Philippines Makoto Katsura, Philippine Business Conference and Exposition chair Francis Chua, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry chair Donald Dee and PCCI president Samie Lim chat after going around the exhibit area of the 33rd PBCE. The three-day annual business meet and the exposition opened yesterday at the Manila Hotel. President Macapagal-Arroyo will be the special guest and keynote speaker on the third day of the conference. RUDY ESPERAS

GMA Network posted P1.8-B profit in Jan.-Sept.

By Riza T. Olchondra

GMA NETWORK INC. POSTED A consolidated net income after tax of P1.788 billion in the first nine months of 2007.

This was 17 percent higher than the P1.532 billion registered in the same period last year.

Revenues as of end-September reached P8.8 billion, 7 percent higher than the P8.3 billion last year.

Net income in the third quarter alone reached P662 million, 7 percent more than the P617 million in the same quarter last year. Revenues in the third quarter hit P3.1 billion, slightly up from P3 billion a year ago.

GMA Network chair Felipe Gozon said the company would will likely sustain its growth momentum in the fourth quarter and post more than P2 billion in net income for the whole year.

Firm expects to surpass P2-B mark by end of '07

"I'm very satisfied with the sales in October and that could continue in November and December," Gozon said.

The company will continue its expansion projects, with P530 million left to spend out of its P900-million budget for capital expenditure this year. This will be spent for its expansion programs in the regions-- including Bicol, the Visayas and Mindanao.

Television airtime sales in the nine-month period grew 6 percent over last year to P8.1 billion. International operations, including GMA Pinoy TV and syndication, grew 52 percent over the same period last year. As of August, GMA Pinoy TV has an estimated 735,000 viewers worldwide based on 147,000 subscribers.

The network also attributed the bigger profit in the nine-month period to better cost management.

Expenses for the third quarter grew mainly because salaries and benefits were increased by 20 percent. The P80-million one-time payment of bonuses to employees in the third quarter in relation to the firm's collective bargaining agreement contributed to the rise in expenses.

Higher talent fees and costly production of Eleksyon 2007 also pushed expenses up.

These, according to GMA Network, were offset by the lower production cost incurred for QTV-11. This was due to the replacement of in-house programs by rented shows.

Lobby dovey

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

FINALLY, BIG BUSINESS IS SPEAKING UP against the Napocor "mafia" that is lobbying Congress to amend the power sector reform law, Epira.

The mafia's main target is the Epira provision that state monopoly Napocor must sell all of its power plants. Meaning, if the sons of their mothers succeed, happy days are here again for them! For us, power rates stay as the second highest in all of Asia! Thanks, Congress!

The move is apparently gaining support in Congress, due to the blessing of the Lola at the Palace for the notorious Napocor mafia.

But the influential American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) in the Philippines recently commented against the move.

And here is Federico "Piki" Lopez, president of First Gen Corp., the Lopez group's arm in the power generation business:

"Amending the law will crack open a hornet's nest of controversy and uncertainty that will reverse all the gains achieved thus far."

Take that, you greedy bastards!

* * *

BY "GAINS," perhaps, Piki refers to the successful sale of big-ticket Napocor assets done by Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management (PSALM) Corp.

Last year, PSALM unloaded the 112-megawatt (MW) Pantabangan-Masiway, the 360-MW Magat hydroelectric and the 600-MW Masinloc coal fired plants.

It also sold recently the 600-MW Calaca coal-fired power plant to a Belgian consortium, Calaca Holdco, for $786.53-million.

All told, the privatization of Napocor plants has reached 38 percent, as against the 70 percent required by the Epira by this time. With PSALM bidding out two to three more power plants with lower generating capacity, the rate can hit 50 percent this year.

No wonder, the mafia is moving heaven and earth to stop it. They may soon run out of assets for their big-time racket.

* * *

IT SEEMS our beloved lawmakers are ignoring the fact that Napocor is still under the Energy Regulatory Commission's investigation for last year's price-fixing scandal.

The main figure in it was of course Napocor president Cyrill del Callar.

If Napocor could get involved in price manipulation in the past, nothing can prevent it from doing the same thing again, since it still controls the power generation business.

Now, imagine for a moment how those foreign investors will react if Congress amends the Epira to keep the Napocor monopoly.

Look, despite the scandal, featuring the head of Napocor no less, the ERC has yet to install safeguards against similar manipulations in the future.

As a result of the price fixing, we, the public, must now cough up some P2 billion more for our electric bills. Nice!

* * *

QUIETLY in the past two years, this little known Filipino company called Primer Group of Companies has been holding conferences and product exhibits for its so-called regional partners.

The "partners" actually come from Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, and Vietnam, all retailers, who carry all sorts of products marketed and distributed by Primer in the region.

Now, Primer has exclusive distribution rights in the region for several well-known foreign brands of shoes, luggage, bags and even outdoor wear.

Jimmy Thai, CEO of Primer—who actually partnered with his boyhood friends and brothers (and their friends) to start the business some 20 years ago—tells me that the group tries to promote its lines by putting up "mono product" outlets. You know—one single brand each store, apparently for visibility!

Thus, locally, Primer has about 60 stores in different malls, for instance, exclusively for its "Kickers" and "Sanuk" brands.

Still, Primer carries many other brands which, according to Thai, are sold in large but mixed outlets, such as its huge "Travel Club" (all sorts of luggage and travel bags) store at the new Ayala mall, Trinoma.

Nevertheless, the lucrative business of regional distribution has long been the domain of companies in Singapore and Hong Kong, and their main target has always been the Philippines.

As far as I know, Primer is the first—and perhaps the only—Filipino group that dared to venture in the marketing and distribution business overseas.

It can be done!

* * *

FORMER Rep. Rene Diaz, who is also a former presidential assistant for Central Luzon, has a proposal to the Lola at the Palace about the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (DMIA) in Clark.

He wants the administration to advance the plan for DMIA to get more scheduled flights than the Naia (Ninoy Aquino International Airport), and he wants it by 2010—or three years from now.

To Diaz, the construction of an international passenger terminal is critical, even just a modular design.

Frankly, most other airport terminals in the country are infinitely better than the DMIA terminal, which looks like it is still part of the military camp.

Look, at the frontage of the DMIA compound is a chicken-wire fence. I mean, where else in the world does an international airport look like a poultry farm?

* * *

DIAZ'S letter to the Lola also reads: "To facilitate this transfer, all airlines that want to fly into DMIA at Clark should be allowed irrespective of existing air rights from now till 2010.

"The local airlines should also be encouraged to transfer immediately part of their international and domestic flights to DMIA.

"If they fail to provide the service to both long range and short range routes, then other foreign airlines should be allowed to fly now and develop the market."

Don't you just smell a "free skies" (i.e. foreign airlines) lobby here?

Insular offers dollar-denominated policy

INSULAR LIFE ASSURANCE CO. IS OFFERing policyholders a dollar-denominated insurance cum investment product that provides a yield of up to 8 percent yearly.

The product, called the Dollar Wealth Builder, is ideal for individuals who have dollars to invest over the medium to long-term and are looking for instruments that offer higher than prevailing interest rates.

Dollar Wealth Builder also provides dollar-denominated insurance protection equal to a minimum guaranteed death benefit or the fund value, whichever is higher.

The minimum premium for this single-pay product is $2,000, but policyholders may opt to increase their investment, and consequently their insurance cover, at a minimum top-up amount of $500. In case they need the cash, they can also withdraw from the account (minimum of $250) provided that the minimum maintaining balance of $1,500 is met. This showcases the product's flexibility as it responds to the changing needs of the policy owner.

Shares ... From page B1

"Given renewed interest in risky assets following Wall Street's advance for the past two days, the market's momentum should continue," said Gomer Tan of Regina Capital Development Corp.

"Security problems have been discounted and the outlook for earnings is upbeat. There was relief, too, that oil prices continued to pull back (from fresh records reached last week)," he said. *AFP*

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REPUBLIKA

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. IV-A
3rd Flr., Andenson Bldg., II, Brgy. Parian, Calamba City
Telefax Nos. (049) 545-0292
October 25, 2007

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

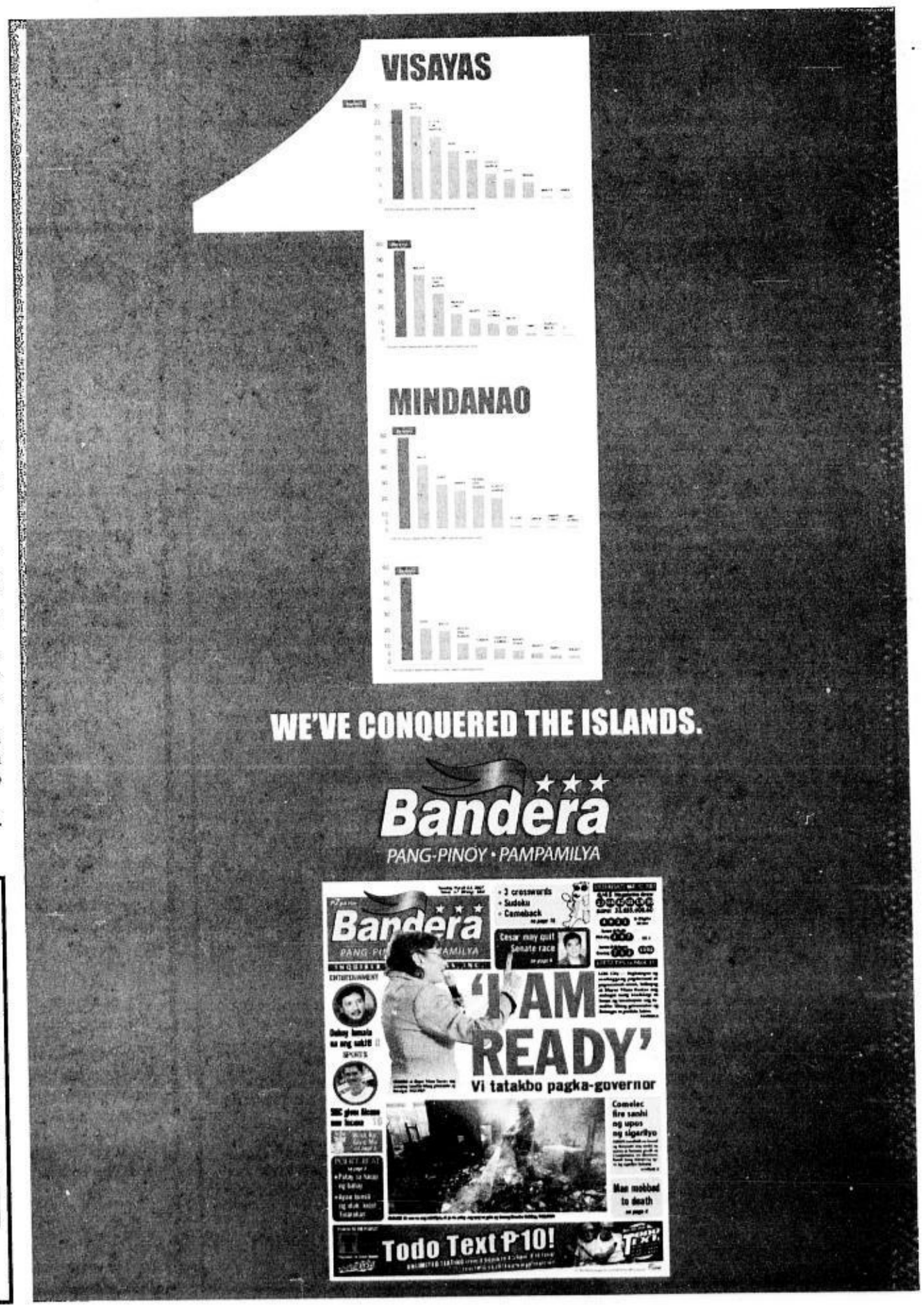
Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s.

	Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
1.	HIGH FREQUENCY CIRCUIT TECH, INC. FCIE, Brgy. Langkaan, Dasmariñas Cavite	Mr. Hideaki Takeda / Japanese	President
2.	BV & R COMMODITIES CORPORATION LISP I, Bo. Diezmo, Cabuyao, Laguna	Mr. Anil Ashok Advani / Indian	President
3.	CENTER FOR AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT, INC. (CARD) M.L. Quezon St., City Subd., San Pablo City	Mr. MD Sohail Ahmed / Bangladeshi	ASA Microfinance Senior Consultant-Mentor

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director

(Sgd.) ATTY. RICARDO S. MARTINEZ, SR., CESO III
Regional Director

(PDI October 25, 2007)



SAGITTARIUS MINES, INC.

The Tampakan Copper-Gold Project managed by Sagittarius Mines, Inc. (SMI) has the following vacancies for regular position :

SECURITY OPERATIONS OFFICER

The position will be responsible for the implementation of the Company's security policies, undertaking internal investigations, designing procedures, programmes, and systems to safeguard personnel, facilities, equipment, and materials. Salary is commensurate with the role and responsibilities.

As a minimum, the ideal candidate will :

- Preferably be a graduate of PMA / PNPA
- Have at least 15 years supervisory experience
- Have experience in supervising field security operations
- Be proficient in MS Office Applications
- Possess excellent oral and written communication
- Be able to relate across all levels of the organization
- Hold a professional driver's license (Restriction Codes 1, 2, 3)

CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

The successful candidate will be responsible for the strategic direction of the Company's communication plans and achieve the desired project positioning outcomes. The functions will cover corporate imaging and branding, advertising and advocacy, marketing and crisis communications and issues management, and support the community and government relations teams.

As a minimum, the position requires the following :

- Masteral or Doctorate Degree, preferably in communications
- 10 years work experience in communications and communications management
- Excellent written and verbal communication abilities
- Proficient in MS Office application
- Has editorial and people skills
- Excellent in communication planning, strategic communications, project management, advocacy and marketing campaigns

RESEARCHER / WRITER

To be based in Makati, the role is primarily designed to contribute to the positioning of the Tampakan Project by writing and producing different materials for various media as prescribed in the communication plans and strategies and manage media relations in the national level.

Minimum requirements include :

- A Bachelor's Degree in Communications, Journalism, Research or any related course
- At least 3 years of work that requires research, writing and media relations
- Very good coordination, networking, and public relations skills
- Excellent writing ability in news, features, and information-education materials scripts
- Excellent language proficiency in English, Filipino and Visayan dialect

Qualified applicants are invited to submit their application letter with comprehensive résumé and Transcript of Records not later than 05 November 2007 to:

HUMAN RESOURCES
Sagittarius Mines, Inc.
JPM Building, Bula-Lagao Road
General Santos City
Tel No : (083) 552-8407
Fax No : (083) 552-8405
Email : **humanresources@smi.com.ph**
(Please indicate in the subject the position being applied for.)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
PANGASINAN DIVISION II
Canarvacanan, Binalonan, Pangasinan, Philippines
Tel. # 075-562-2650 • Fax 075-562-4508

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **Department of Education, Pangasinan Division II,** through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers / manufacturers / distributors / contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

LOT	NAME OF CONTRACT	LOCATION	Approved Budget for the Contract	Contract Duration
A	Supply and Delivery of School Furniture CY 2007	4th District	Php 2,279,000.00	90 CD
B	Supply and Delivery of School Furniture CY 2007	5th District	Php 2,522,000.00	90 CD
C	Supply and Delivery of School Furniture CY 2007	6th District	Php 3,292,000.00	90 CD

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184 known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interests or outstanding capital stocks belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II, Instruction to Bidders of the Bidding Documents.

The schedule of BAC Activities is as follows:

Activity	Date	Venue
1. Issuance of Bidding Documents	October 25-31, 2007	Cashier's Office
2. Pre-bid Conference	Nov. 5, 2007 @ 2:00 PM	Division Function Room
3. Deadline of Submission of Bids	Nov. 12, 2007 @ 2:00 PM	Division Function Room
4. Opening of Bids	Nov. 12, 2007 @ 2:00 PM	Division Function Room

Bid Documents will be available only to **prospective bidders** upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **Php 3,000.00** to the **DepED Pangasinan Division II** Cashier.

The **DepED Pangasinan Division II,** reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) **DONATO D. BALDERAS, JR.**
BAC Chairperson

(PDI – October 25, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT-ZAMBOANGA PENINSULA
Upper Calarian, Zamboanga City
Tel. No. 991-1313, 983-0932 to 34, fax 991-3380
E-mail: dohchdzp@yahoo.com

Standard Form Number: SF-INFR-05
Revised on: July 29, 2004

Contract Reference Number 07-010-247

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The DOH-Center for Health Development-Zamboanga Peninsula, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) range as "Medium" "A" with a license category "B" to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract	Construction of SS MOTHER & CHILD Hospital Building
Location	Jolo, Sulu
Brief Description	2,436.0 sq. M. 2 storey main bldg., 27.0 sq.m. power house & Overhead Concrete Water Tank
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) PhP	39,482,091.33
Contract Duration	300 calendar days

Prospective Bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of 50% of the ABC and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check / Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-bidding conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR-A).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

BAC Activities	Schedule
Receipt from prospective bidders of Letter of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	October 25 – November 8, 2007
Issuance of Eligibility Forms	October 25 – November 8, 2007
Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	November 9, 2007 at 10:00 A.M.
Notice of Result of Eligibility	November 13, 2007
Issuance of Bid Documents	November 14, 2007
Pre-Bid Conference	November 19, 2007, 10:00 A.M.
Receipt and Opening of Bids	December 4, 2007, 10:00 A.M.

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders eligibility Forms at DOH – Center for Health Development Zamboanga Peninsula, Upper Calarian, Zamboanga City, upon submission of their LOI, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P1,500.00) fee for Eligibility Form to the DOH-Center for Health Development -Zamboanga Peninsula Cashier. Prospective Bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00) to the DOH-Center for Health Development-Zamboanga Peninsula Cashier.

The DOH-Center for Health Development-Zamboanga Peninsula, assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids and reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding or not to award the contract.

Approved:

(Sgd.) **NIMFA B. TORRIZO, MD., MPH**
Chairperson
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – October 25, 2007)

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Republic of the Philippines
Professional Regulation Commission
Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Professional Regulation Commission, with address at P. Paredes cor. N. Reyes St. (formerly Morayta St.), Sampaloc, Manila, hereby invites prospective bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

Items for Bidding	Approved Budget for the Contract	Non-Refundable Fee	Date/Venue of Pre-bid Conference	Date/Venue of Submission and Opening of Bids
LERIS and Web Portal Enhancement	P 6,500,000.00 (VAT inclusive)	P 6,500.00	November 19, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. PRC Conference Room 2nd Floor, PRC Main Building	December 4, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. PRC Conference Room 2nd Floor, PRC Main Building
Network Infrastructure Build-Up	P 15,000,000.00 (VAT inclusive)	P 10,000.00	November 19, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. PRC Conference Room 2nd Floor, PRC Main Building	December 4, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. PRC Conference Room 2nd Floor, PRC Main Building
Office Systems Automation II	P 3,900,000.00 (VAT inclusive)	P 4,000.00	November 20, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. PRC Conference Room 2nd Floor, PRC Main Building	December 5, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. PRC Conference Room 2nd Floor, PRC Main Building

The LERIS and Web Portal Enhancement Project covers two (2) major components namely: (a) the design and development of additional functionalities and features, installing additional security / control features, and generating additional system & management reports among others, of the existing PRC Licensure Examination and Registration Information System (LERIS) which is an end-to-end real-time system covering online systems for application, payment, walk-in-examination, registration, legal management, and executive information; and (b) the re-engineering of the current PRC Web Portal to enhance system security, integrity, availability, and accessibility of LERIS and other PRC web-based services / systems, as well as to enhance the portal's aesthetics and user-friendliness.

The Network Infrastructure Build-Up Project involves the establishment of the PRC network infrastructure in anticipation of the deployment of PRC's critical information systems in selected areas, i.e., Manila, regional offices and global sites. The project covers the detailed investigation of PRC's network requirements based on the project's objective, analysis of the findings, formulation of solution infrastructure, design and physical layout of pertinent devices, procurement, installation, configuration testing, deployment, performance testing and training of nominated PRC personnel.

The Office Systems Automation II Project covers the design, and development of Asset Management Information System (AMIS); enhancement of the Performance Appraisal System (PAS is part of the existing Human Resource Management Information System); and enhancement of the Electronic Cash Management System (eCMS is a cashiering system developed in Visual Basic) and convert it into a web-based system. AMIS covers the full range of asset management processes from planning, procurement, stock-keeping up to disposal. Performance appraisal covers individual personnel and office work measurement including automated collection of work accomplishments of personnel using the various computerized systems. eCMS will be used for all PRC services with payment transactions and will be interfaced with the LERIS and with eNGAS (Electronic National Government Accounting System). These three systems will be online/realtime, web-based, collaborative, and must be interfaced with other related PRC application systems / modules. Moreover, these must be integrated into the PRC internal collaborative portal.

Duration for the above projects shall be maximum of one (1) year.

Bidders may consist of local or joint local and foreign consultants duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and/or any agency authorized by the laws of the Philippines. Bidders shall obtain the list of eligibility requirements at the office of Commissioner Nilo L. Rosas, BAC Chairman, at the 2nd floor, PRC Main Building, starting on October 25, 2007 with a non-refundable fee of P 1,000.00 for each of the abovementioned projects.

The prospective bidders shall submit a **Letter of Intent (LOI) and Application for Eligibility** at the office of the BAC Chairman on or before November 5, 2007. The eligibility forms shall be released upon the receipt of the LOIs and Applications for Eligibility.

The eligibility requirements shall be submitted not later than 10:00 in the morning on November 8, 2007 for LERIS Enhancement, 2:00 in the afternoon on November 8, 2007 for Network Infrastructure Build-up Project and 10:00 in the morning on November 9, 2007 for Office Systems Automation II at the PRC Conference Room, 2nd floor, PRC main building.

Prospective bidders shall be evaluated using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria against the checklist of eligibility requirements. ONLY ELIGIBLE BIDDERS shall undergo short-listing based on the following criteria:

Criteria	Weights (%) LERIS Enhancement	Network Infrastructure	OSA II
1 Experience	50%	50%	50%
2. Capability			
a. Available Manpower and ICT Facilities	40%	40%	40%
b. Methodology/Approach	10%	10%	10%
Total Score	100%	100%	100%
Passing Score	80%	80%	80%

The Bidding documents and Terms of Reference (TORs) of the above projects shall be made available ONLY TO SHORTLISTED BIDDERS after paying the abovementioned non-refundable fee for each project starting on November 14, 2007.

The bids shall be evaluated using the Quality Cost based Evaluation System for the projects.

All particulars relative to the eligibility check, opening and evaluation of bids and contract awarding shall be governed by the applicable provisions of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act (GPRA), and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

The Commission reserves the right to verify the veracity of any information or authenticity of any document submitted in the course of bidding and to undertake ocular inspection of offices and facilities of bidders. It likewise reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality therein, and to accept the offer most advantageous to the PRC. It shall not assume any responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense incurred in the preparation of the bid, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

Very truly yours,
(Sgd.) **LEONOR T. ROSERO**
Chairperson

(PDI - October 25 2007)

MAGUINDANAO ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
(M A G E L C O-PALMA)
Villarica, Midsayap, Cotabato
– o Oo –

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

1. The MAGELCO-PALMA through the Pre-Bids and Awards Commmee (PBAC) invites interested suppliers and contractors to pre-qualify and bid the following electrical equipment on easy installment plan or lease to own.
   I One (1) Unit 10 MVA Power Transformer
   Off-Load, 69 KV-Delta, 13.2/7.62 KV Wye
   II 69 KV Accessories
   a) Disconnect Switch, 69 KV, 3 Gang – 1 set
   b) Lightning Arrester, 15 KV station Type – 3 sets
   c) Circuit Breaker, 69 KV, 3 Phase, SF6 – 1 unit
   d) Battery Charger & Control Cabinet – 1 set
   e) Steel Structure 69 KV – 1 set
   III. 13.2 KV Electrical Component:
   a) 3 Phase Reclosers – 2 units
   b) Disconnect Switch 15 KV – 2 sets
   c) Control Panel (13.2 KV) – 1 set
   d) Lightning Arrester 15 KV Station Type – 3 sets
   e) Steel Structure
   IV. Commissioning/Testing
2. The needed documents for accreditation and Bid forms are available at MAGELCO, Capitol, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao (Tel. No. 064-431-0088). A Bid fee of Php 3,500.00 is required and non-refundable:
3. The following schedule shall be strictly observed:
   Submission of Documents for accredeation – November 08, 2007
   Issuance of bid documents – November 22, 2007
   Submission and opening of bids at Villarica, Midsayap, Cotabato – December 07, 2007 (09:00 a.m.)
4. Sealed bids will be opened in the presence of all attending bidders, members of the PBAC and a representative from the Internal Audit Department;
5. The bidder with the most favorable offer of installment plan or lease to own shall be awarded the contract;
6. PBAC reserves the right to award or reject any or all bids in accordance to the existing NEA procurement policy.

(PDI – October 25, 31 & Nov. 7, 2007)

MAGELCO-PALMA MANAGEMENT

WE ARE PUBLISHING SEVERAL MONTHLY TRADE MAGAZINES (OVER 40 YEARS OLD) BASED IN QUEZON CITY AND ARE IN NEED OF:

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- Experienced in sales or marketing preferable but not required

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- With typing speed of 45 wpm and steno at 60 wpm

Qualified applicants may send in their applications in writing with recent photo and bio-data to:

The Personnel Manager
P. O. Box 3454, Manila or send resumé to **7macoyurb@hotmail.com** or apply in person at 626 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City

---

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND

INVITATION TO BID

The Pag-IBIG Fund is inviting offers to buy by way of individual Sealed Bids on an "AS IS, WHERE IS Basis" for the following property and equipment:

DESCRIPTION	NO. OF UNITS	NON-REFUNDABLE FEE	PRE-BID CONFERENCE
I. Unserviceable Motor Vehicles	**18**	**P 100.00**	**Oct. 30, 2007**
1996 Toyota Corolla XL	9		
1994 Toyota Tamaraw FX Wagon	4		
1993 Toyota Tamaraw FX	1		
1995 Mitsubishi Lancer EL	1		
1996 Mitsubishi L-200 Pick-up	1		
1994 Mitsubishi L-200 Pick-up	1		
2000 Nissan Cefiro Brougham AT, 2.0 V6 VIP	1		
II. Unserviceable Office Equipment, Furniture and Fixtures, Obsolete Forms and Waste Materials	**1 Lot**	**P 100.00**	**Nov. 5, 2007**

Bidding Guidelines will be available at the Property and Supply Management Division, General Services Department, Rm 704, Atrium of Makati Condominium, Makati Avenue, City of Makati beginning October 24, 2007 upon payment of the corresponding non-refundable fee.

Pre-bid conference shall be held on the above schedule at 2:00 in the afternoon at Room 602, 6th floor, Arnel Taduran Hall, Atrium of Makati Condominium, Makati Avenue, City of Makati. Schedule of submission and opening of bids will be announced during the said conference.

The Pag-IBIG Fund reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality or accept such bids as may be considered advantageous to the Fund. Further, the Pag-IBIG Fund assumes no obligations whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for expenses or losses that may be incurred in participating in this bidding.

For further inquiries and/or information, please call Ms. Vivian Y. Aguilar or Cesar V. Racoma at 894-58-15 or 811-43-15.

(Sgd.) **DELIA L. BERNARDO**
Vice President, Administration Group
Chair, Disposal Committee

(PDI--Oct. 24, 25 & 26, 2007)

Civil engineers, highest paid in construction industry

IN THE COUNTRY'S construction industry, civil engineers receive the highest average monthly basic pay, the Department of Labor and Employment (Dole) said.

Labor and Employment Secretary Arturo D. Brion said a survey of the Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics (BLES) showed that civil engineers were paid the highest average monthly wage rate at P15,061.

He said the findings was based on the Occupational Wages Survey (OWS) conducted by BLES in August 2006 to inquire on the wages rates of 10 selected occupations in the construction sector.

He said the survey was part of the Dole's efforts to provide quality statistical information and services in support to labor administration particularly in analyzing and finding solutions to problems confronting labor and employment in the country.

The BLES survey also showed that the second highest paid workers in construction were production supervisors and general foremen who received an average monthly wage rate of P13,913.

ALFONSO SANTOS
"PONCHIT"

Peacefully joined our Creator on June 18, 2006 in Yellowknife, NT Canada.

His cremated remains will be interred after the 2:00 pm Mass to be held at the Multi-Purpose Hall, Loyola Memorial Park Marikina on October 27, 2007.

He is lovingly remembered by his wife **Nene Brosas Santos**; his mother **Engracia Delfino Santos**; his sister **Benilda S. Ramos** & husband **Tony**; daughter **Lourdes Rankin** & husband **Doug**; son **Anthony** & girlfriend **Jodie**; grandchildren **Victoria** & **Mitchell Rankin**, relatives & friends.

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."
2 Timothy 4:7

Our Dearly Beloved Mommy

EDITHA G. VITASA

Peacefully joined our Lord on October 21, 2007 at the age of 60.

Her husband **Rolando**; her children **Jun** and **Olga**, **Patricia** and **Donna** and **Paul**; grandchildren **Paeng**, **Yssa** and **Claire**; brothers and sisters, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz - Sucat (inside Manila Memorial Park), Parañaque City.

Tentative interment will be on Friday, October 26, 2007 at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City.

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."
– 2 Timothy 4:7

"I am the resurrection and life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies and whoever believes in Me will never die."
-John 11:25-26

CIELINDO PAUL "Don-Don" L. LAO

Peacefully joined our Lord at the age of 33.

His loving wife **Karen Therese Cariaso-Lao**, parents **Drs. Leopoldo** and **Celia**, brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts, nephews, nieces, in-laws, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Our Lady of Remedies Chapel, Don Enrique Heights, Capitol Hills, Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment at Himlayang Pilipino Memorial Park, Tandang Sora Avenue, Quezon City immediately follows after the 8:00 a.m. Mass on October 27, 2007, Saturday at Our Lady of Remedies Chapel.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF THE 2ND DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF

EXUPERANCIA F. RONQUILLO

November 14, 1912-October 25, 2005

Holy Mass will be offered on Sunday, October 28, 2007 at the Holy Family Parish Church, San Andres Bukid, Manila at 9:30 A.M.
And at the following churches:

Manila Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception	*7:30 A.M.*
St. Anthony of Padua Parish	*6:00 A.M.*
Archdiocesan Shrine of Nuestra Señora de Guia	*6:30 A.M.*
Immaculate Conception Parish, San Agustin Church	*6:30 A.M.*
Our Lady of Remedies, Malate	*6:00 A.M.*
Sta. Maria Goretti Parish	*6:00 A.M.*
St. Peter the Apostle Parish	*6:00 A.M.*
St. Vincent de Paul Parish	*6:30 A.M.*
St. Pius X Parish	*6:00 A.M.*
Holy Family Parish Church San Andres, Manila	*6:30 A.M.*

BETTY REYES CERTEZA

Peacefully joined her Creator on October 23, 2007 at the age of 80.

Her loving husband Tim, children Bettina and Gi, Yoland Lea and Ronald, Tim III and Sandra, and Michaela; grandchildren, sisters, relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at St. Paul the Apostle Parish, Mother Ignacia St. cor. Timog Ave., Q. C.

There will be a 1 PM Mass on October 27, 2007 at St. Paul the Apostle Parish. Cremation will follow at the Loyola Memorial, Marikina City.

We thank the Lord Jesus for the wonderful life of

LAURA DOROTHEA "NANAY" PEREZ VALENTON

the beloved wife of **Eliodoro Valenton (†)**
who joined our Creator on the 20th of October 2007 at the age of 87.

Friends and family may view her remains at **Nacional Memorial Homes,** Araneta Ave., Quezon City. The interment will be held at **Eternal Gardens,** Kalookan City on Saturday, October 27, 2007 after the 1 p.m. necrological service at Nacional Memorial Homes.

From her children **Candido Daniel "Danny" & Lucy, Eliodoro Jr. "Dodo" & Ellen, Laura "Uni" Macaraeg** and **Liza & Nick Amparo**; her brothers and sisters, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

"The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want... And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever." (Psalm 23)

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

we design OBITUARIES for free

In Loving Memory on the 19th Death Anniversary of

Godofredo "Fred" C. Fernandez

who passed away on 25 October 1988

The family requests relatives, friends & pious readers to pray for his eternal repose.

Thank you and God Bless!

...and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 1:11

DOLORES IBAÑEZ - NOROÑA

of Kinablangan, Davao Oriental
Our Beloved Mama peacefully joined her Creator and her husband, ROSAURO V. NOROÑA on October 23, 2007 at the age of 84.

Her loving children **LINDA, LEAH, ROSALYN** and **MARVIN**; in-laws and grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Friday, October 26, 2007 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 10:00 a.m. mass at the Solace 2 Chapel of Arlington.

"I am the Lord's servant. May it happen to me as you have said." (Luke 2:38)

SR. MARY ANNUNCIATA CAHIMBINGAN SALAMATIN, R.G.S.

(baptized Eufrocina and popularly known as Sr. Ciats)
(7 May 1923 - 24 October 2007)

Consciously surrendered to God's call on her 84th year after 53 years as a Good Shepherd Sister, working indefatigably for the poor.

The Philippine Province of the Good Shepherd and her siblings, Amando and Aida, request your prayerful remembrance.

The wake is at the Good Shepherd Chapel, 1043 Aurora Boulevard, Q. C. Her ashes will be interred in the cemetery inside the compound, following the 8 a.m. Mass of the Resurrection on Saturday, 27 October 2007.

An offering for Sister Ciats' project for the poor in Porac will be appreciated.

CLASSIFIEDS

Contract Manager

The US Naval Facilities Engineering command is seeking qualified applicants for the position of service contract project manager at WESMINCOM Zamboanga City, Mindanao. Contract currently encompasses aviation and waterfront operations, dining facility operation, MWR, facilities support. Employment will initially be via annual renewable contract. Qualified applicants will be required to have appropriate clearances and will preferably have had prior military experience. Submit resumé, compensation requirements, and inquiries to: HRO@navfacpacific.us.

Quality Assurance Representative

The US Naval Facilities Engineering command is seeking qualified applicants for the position of quality assurance representative at WESMINCOM Zamboanga City, Mindanao. The position will provide quality assurance for service contracts and construction contracts. Employment will initially be via annual renewable contract. Qualified applicants will be required to have a minimum of a BS in an appropriate engineering curriculum from an accredited university. Submit resumé, compensation requirements, and inquiries to: HRO@navfacpacific.us.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE
Office of the Regional Director
Revenue Region No. 3
Tuguegarao City

NOTICE OF SALE

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 216 of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended, the undersigned will sell at public auction in one whole lot, for cash, to the highest bidder at the Office of the Regional Director, 3rd Floor, ATI Building, Don Domingo, Tuguegarao City on the 26th day of November, 2007 beginning at 10:00 in the morning of said day, the following acquired/forfeited real properties of Bureau of Internal Revenue in the name of the Republic of the Philippines, described as follows:

DESCRIPTION OF REAL PROPERTIES

1. Administrative Building erected on the lot of Isabela Electric Cooperative covering an area of 425 sq.m. under Tax Declaration No. 99-01-033-01289 located at Victoria, Alicia, Isabela with a Market Value of P 1,224,000.00;
2. General Manager's Quarter erected on the lot of Isabela Electric Cooperative covering an area of 225 sq.m. under TCT No. T-214453, located at Victoria, Alicia, Isabela under Tax Declaration No. 99-01-033-01287 with a Market Value of P 432,000.00;
3. Multi-Purpose Building erected on the lot of Isabela Electric Cooperative under TCT No. 214453 covering an area 450 sq.m. under Tax Declaration No. 99-01-033-01290 located at Victoria, Alicia, Isabela with a Market Value of P 1,296,000.00;
4. Warehouse erected on the lot of Isabela Electric Cooperative under TCT No. T-214453 covering an area of 370.62 sq.m. under Tax Declaration No. 99-01-033-01288 located at Victoria, Alicia, Isabela with a Market Value of P355,800.00.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality therein, and accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to the government, or call-off a bidding prior to acceptance of the bids and call for a new bid under amended rules. The decision of the Awards and Bids Committee (ABC) of the Bureau of Internal Revenue is final and binding.

Done in the City of Tuguegarao, Province of Cagayan, Philippines, this 16th day of October, 2007.

Floor Price : P3,307,800.00

COMMISSIONER OF INTERNAL REVENUE
By:
(Sgd.) ROMEO P. BUAN
HEAD, REGIONAL OFFICE TASK FORCE
OIC Regional Director

(PDI – October 25 & November 1, 2007)

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UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES DILIMAN

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The University of the Philippines Diliman, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites consultants to apply for eligibility and shortlisting and if found eligible and shortlisted, to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Contract	Construction Management Services for the Construction of Roads
Location	The National Science Complex, University of the Philippines Diliman
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	PhP 776,699.00
Contract Duration	180 calendar days

The list of minimum requirements is indicated in the Eligibility Form. Eligibility of prospective bidders shall be checked using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Shortlisting of eligible consultants will be done based on the following criteria: experience of the consultant, qualification of personnel and current workload. Only five (5) eligible bidders shall make up the shortlist. The evaluation procedure to be adopted shall be Quality-Cost Based Evaluation/Selection (QCBE/QCBS). The University of the Philippines shall indicate the weights to be allocated for the Technical and Financial Proposals. The criteria and rating system for the evaluation of bids shall be provided in the Instructions to Bidders.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The schedule of activities is as follows:

	BAC Activities	*Schedule*
1.	Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI)	Until 7 November 2007
2.	Period of Issuance of Eligibility Forms	Until 7 November 2007
3.	Deadline for Submission of Eligibility Requirements	14 November 2007, 9:00 a.m.
4.	Notice of Results of Eligibility Check / Short Listing	21 November 2007
5.	Issuance of Terms of Reference and Bid Documents	21-28 November 2007
6.	Pre-bid Conference	29 November 2007, 10:00 a.m.
7.	Receipt of Technical and Financial Proposals	11 December 2007, 9:30 a.m.
8.	Opening of Technical Proposals	11 December 2007, 10:00 a.m.
9.	Opening of Financial Proposals	13 December 2007, 10:00 a.m.

The Eligibility Screening Form will be available at the Office of the Campus Architect (OCA), Coral Building, cor. Delos Reyes and Lakandula Streets, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City, upon submission of a Letter of Intent, and upon payment of a non-refundable amount of PhP 500.00 to the UP Cashier. Submission and results of eligibility, as well as the Pre-bid Conference, shall be in the same office. Bid Documents will be available only to shortlisted bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee to the UP Cashier.

The University of the Philippines assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

(Sgd.) MARY DELIA G. TOMACRUZ
BAC Chairman

(PDI – October 25, 2007)

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising Hotlines:

Head Office:
897-8425 (Telefax)
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912-9008
to 11 (Aurora)

Makati:
892-5578;
811-4361;
811-4370

Kalaw:
523-5570
loc. 115 or 116

Megamall:
635-0219;
635-0220

More Classifieds on page
Department of Labor and Employment – NCR Page A22
Department of Labor and Employment – Reg. IV Page B5

BUSINESS

BIR to pursue cases vs banks on DSTs

Court says special deposit accounts subject to the tax

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE said it would not drop the cases against banks that allegedly owe the government multibillion pesos in documentary stamp taxes, even if they apply for tax amnesty.

Revenue Commissioner Lilian Hefti said it was for the government's best interest to pursue the cases, especially since there was a need to raise tax collections and wipe out the budget deficit.

Under the recently enacted Tax Amnesty law, even tax evaders that have already been charged in courts may apply for amnesty. The law also says that once a taxpayer qualifies for amnesty, court cases against it would be dropped.

Despite this, Hefti said, the BIR was bent on pursuing the court cases. She said the BIR had won similar cases in the past involving DST liabilities on special savings accounts. This, she said, meant the courts had already decided that banks had to pay DST on special savings accounts. This came about prior to the enactment of the Tax Amnesty law, she said.

The tussle between the BIR and the banking industry stemmed from the creation of special savings deposits in the 1990s, which were created for clients who wanted higher yields and the comfort of being able to withdraw their money anytime.

Under the National Internal Revenue Code, time deposit accounts, which have higher interests, are subject to DST but ordinary savings accounts are not.

Banks did not remit DST on special savings deposit accounts. Members of the Bankers Association of the Philippines (BAP) claimed special savings accounts should not be subject to DST because these were different from time deposits.

DST is equivalent to P1 per P200 worth of documented financial transaction.

Upon receiving tax assessment notices from the BIR, the banks filed cases in court. Some cases have already been decided upon by the Supreme Court, which ruled in favor of the BIR, saying that special savings accounts are subject to the DST.

But the BIR said there were still cases against some banks that were pending in court, and that the government could generate tens of billions in pesos more if the alleged tax liabilities would be collected.

The BIR's efforts to run after the remaining tax liabilities, however, suffered a setback with the Tax Amnesty law. Under the law, an amnesty applicant is required to pay an amnesty fee equivalent to only 5 percent of the increase in its net worth arising from the amendment of its statement of assets, liabilities and net worth.

Hefti said it was likely that some, if not all, of the concerned banks would apply for tax amnesty. The banks could file a motion for the court to junk their tax cases in the light of their amnesty application.

"If they do this, we (the BIR) will object and tell the courts that we are not going to drop the cases," Hefti said, adding that the BIR would neither initiate the withdrawal of the cases nor approve the applications for amnesty.

The commissioner said the BIR would only do otherwise if the court decided that the banks were qualified for amnesty and that cases against them should be dropped.

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Shell CNG stations start operations

By Abigail L. Ho

BIÑAN, LAGUNA—AFTER YEARS of delay, the Shell Companies in the Philippines finally started the commercial run yesterday of its mother-daughter compressed natural gas (CNG) refilling stations.

The mother station is in Tabangao, Batangas while the daughter or refilling station is in Biñan, Laguna.

This meant that the first 22 CNG-fed buses in the country could now start plying the Laguna-Cubao/Lawton and Batangas-Cubao/Lawton routes.

In a speech during yesterday's launch, President Macapagal-Arroyo said this was a significant step in "countering the threat of increasing oil prices and pollution."

"We're reducing dependence on imported fuel and promoting clean air. We're promoting natural gas as a clean alternative fuel for transport," she said.

These CNG-fed buses would be enjoying a more than 50-percent cut in fuel costs, as the CNG to be sold by Shell was priced at only P14.52 a liter.

The operation of Shell's mother-daughter stations is part of the government's Natural Gas Vehicle Program for Public Transport (NGVPPT), a seven-year pilot program that will peg the price of CNG at P14.52 a liter, less than half the price of diesel, for participating bus operators.

The Department of Energy expects 200 CNG-fed buses to be delivered to the country, 185 of which have already been allotted to accredited bus firms.

These accredited bus operators include HM Transport Inc. with 80 units, KL Transport with 40 units, RRCG Transport and Pascual Liner Inc. with 20 units each, Greenstar Express Inc. and CNG Vehicles Corp. with 10 units each, and BBL Transport System Inc. with five units.

Right now, DOE energy utilization and management bureau director Mario Marasigan said there were only 22 CNG-fed buses in the country. The remaining 178 buses under the pilot program should be shipped to the country within the next six months.

"This pilot program will allow us to determine the economic viability of using CNG for public transport. We should be able to see at least 2,000 buses during these seven years," he said in an interview.

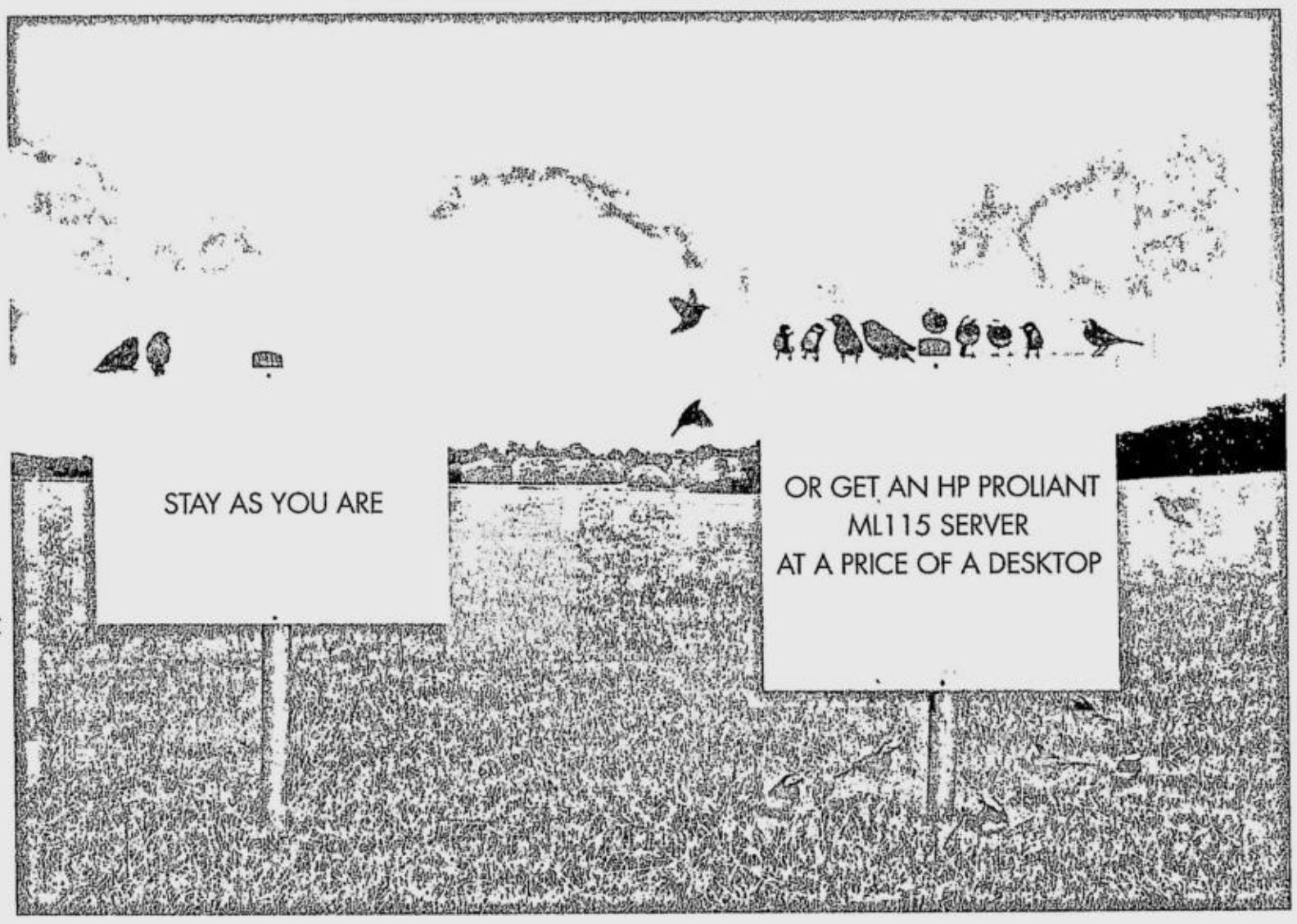
Shell country chair Edgar Chua said it was still too early to say whether or not the Shell Group would put up more daughter stations in various areas in the near future.

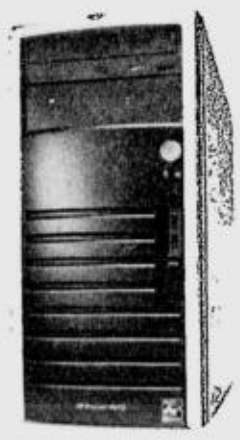
He said the factors to be considered included supply and demand, as well as the availability of natural gas from the Malampaya Deep Water Gas-to-Power project in offshore Palawan.

The Shell Group, through Shell Philippines Exploration BV, holds a 45-percent stake in the Malampaya project.

The first daughter station cost the Shell Group P100 million.

"We have to see how the (pilot program) will go, and see the supply and demand situation," he said.





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Lafayette ships $8.3M worth of copper, zinc

By Amy R. Remo

AUSTRALIAN FIRM LAFAYETTE Mining Ltd. yesterday said it had dispatched four concentrate shipments of copper and zinc in the third quarter of the year, valued at about $8.38 million.

In a report, Lafayette said these shipments were loaded through its port facilities in Rapu Rapu Island and was dispatched to offshore smelters.

These were sold through its contracted off-taker, LG International, to customers in China and Korea, it added.

Under stockpile financing arrangements with LG International, Lafayette received $8.19 million in advance payments for the future sale of concentrates.

During the quarter, the average copper price was $7,712 a ton, while the average zinc price was $3,227 a ton.

Precious metal prices were at $679.82 an ounce for gold and $12.65 an ounce for silver.

In the same period, Lafayette said the metal production from its Rapu Rapu Polymetallic project in Albay has increased by 12 percent to 1,726 equivalent tons of copper being produced from the second quarter's 1,543 equivalent tons.

The third quarter production included 878 tons of copper, 1,705 tons of zinc, 1,522 ounces of gold and 38,525 ounces of silver.

SM Pampanga opens annex

SM PRIME HOLDINGS INC. opened last Friday the third annex of its SM City Pampanga, one of the largest malls in Central Luzon.

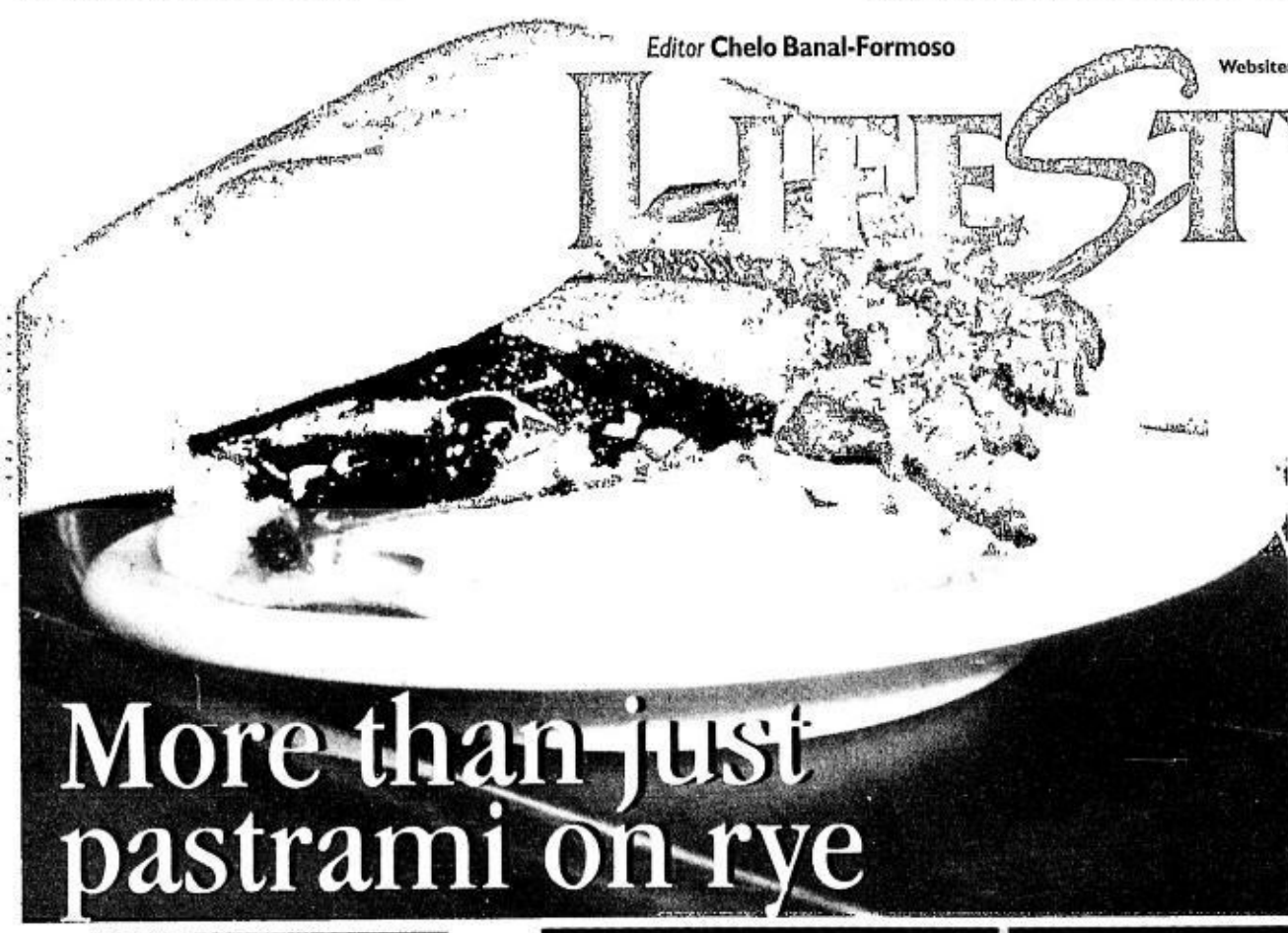
This adds 17,439 square meters of gross floor area to the main mall. Two previous annexes were built in 2002 and 2003. With the opening of Annex 3, SM City Pampanga now has a total GFA of 128,089 sq.m. and a total building length of 890 meters long.

SM Prime president Hans Sy said: "Our continued expansion in Pampanga is testimony to its strong local economy. Its proximity to Metro Manila and Subic, combined with its international airport in Clark Special Economic Zone makes the province an ideal regional gateway and hub."

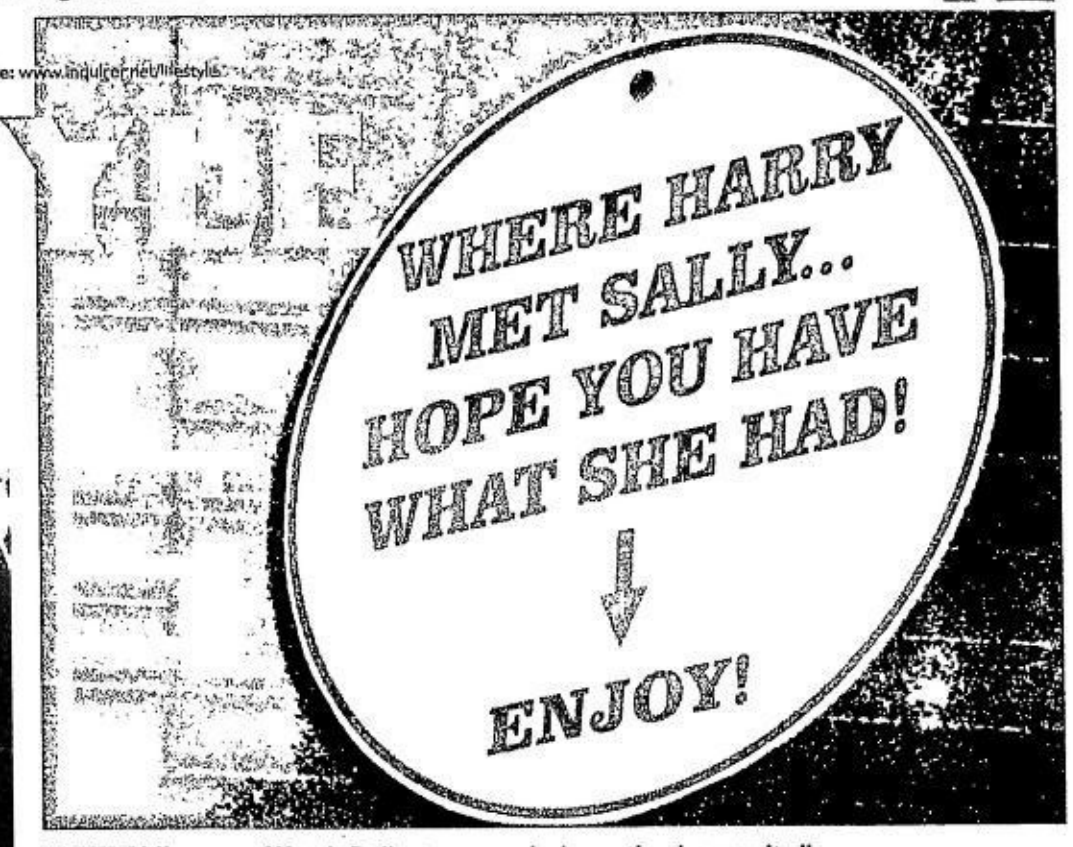
SM City Pampanga's Annex 3 has 14,025 sq.m. of gross leasable area (GLA) and will house several restaurants and apparel shops.

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso
Website: www.inquirer.net/lifestyle

LIFESTYLE



More than just pastrami on rye



PASTRAMI on rye of Katz's Delicatessen and, above, the sign says it all.

COUNTRY COOKING
Micky Fenix

MY GUIDES MYRNA SEGISMUNDO and her sister Alice brought me to one of New York's finest eating places where they said one scene from the movie "When Harry Met Sally" was shot.

It was where Sally (Meg Ryan) showed Harry (Billy Crystal) her orgasmic demonstration. Sure enough, one table had a sign to mark the spot where Harry and Sally sat. It also said: "Hope you have what she had."

What Sally most probably had (if she had been a real person) would have been the specialty of Katz's Delicatessen. It is pastrami on rye, a huge sandwich made of several layers of what is considered traditional Jewish food.

Katz's Delicatessen is a landmark in the city's gastronomic history. Since its founding in 1888, the deli has been producing the same kinds of cured, brined and pickled products for New Yorkers.

Apart from the pastrami, it also serves corned beef, baked brisket, knoblewurst (beef sausage), tongue, salami, bologna, liverwurst.

On one side of the restaurant, a huge hangar-like place at 205 East Houston Street, several people do the sandwiches ordered at the counter. We chose the one who looked Filipino. My guides briefed me on what was to happen.

A taste first

First he takes out a big slab of pastrami, then slices a bit for you to taste. If he likes you, he slices a bit more. When you approve of it, which is really likely, he starts slicing thin pieces and layers it on top of a slice of bread. Before he puts the other bread on top, he asks if you want mustard. He then proceeds to wipe it with the deli's very good golden mustard.

After that he gives you brined cucumber and pickles and off you go to savor this New York specialty.

One of the practices, I was told, was to give a little tip to the counterman, a dollar or two, so he would give you a bit more of the meat. He probably does not really give you more but it is a nice gesture of appreciation for his work.

Our's even posed without being asked when he saw me with a camera. And then he declared he was from Manila. I doubted it.

I had to research how pastrami was made because I was not familiar with it. The meat, beef brisket, is brined then dried and seasoned with herbs and spices like black pepper, cloves, basil, marjoram. Then it is smoked. Before serving, it is steamed.

When the counterman showed me the pastrami the first time, the surface was all black but it did look like it was steamed.

If you eat it right at Katz's, you may expe-

MORE THAN/ C4

COUNTERMAN shows off the finished product.

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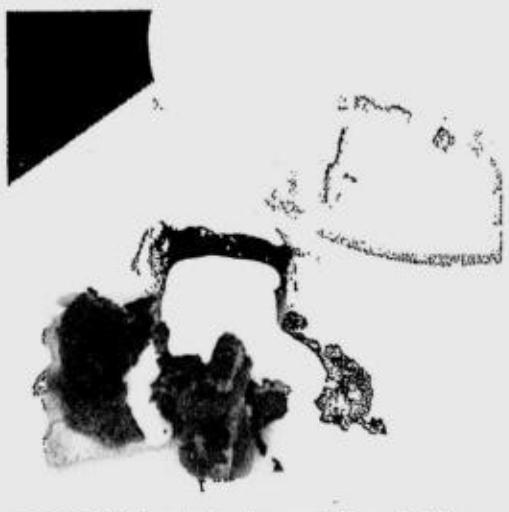
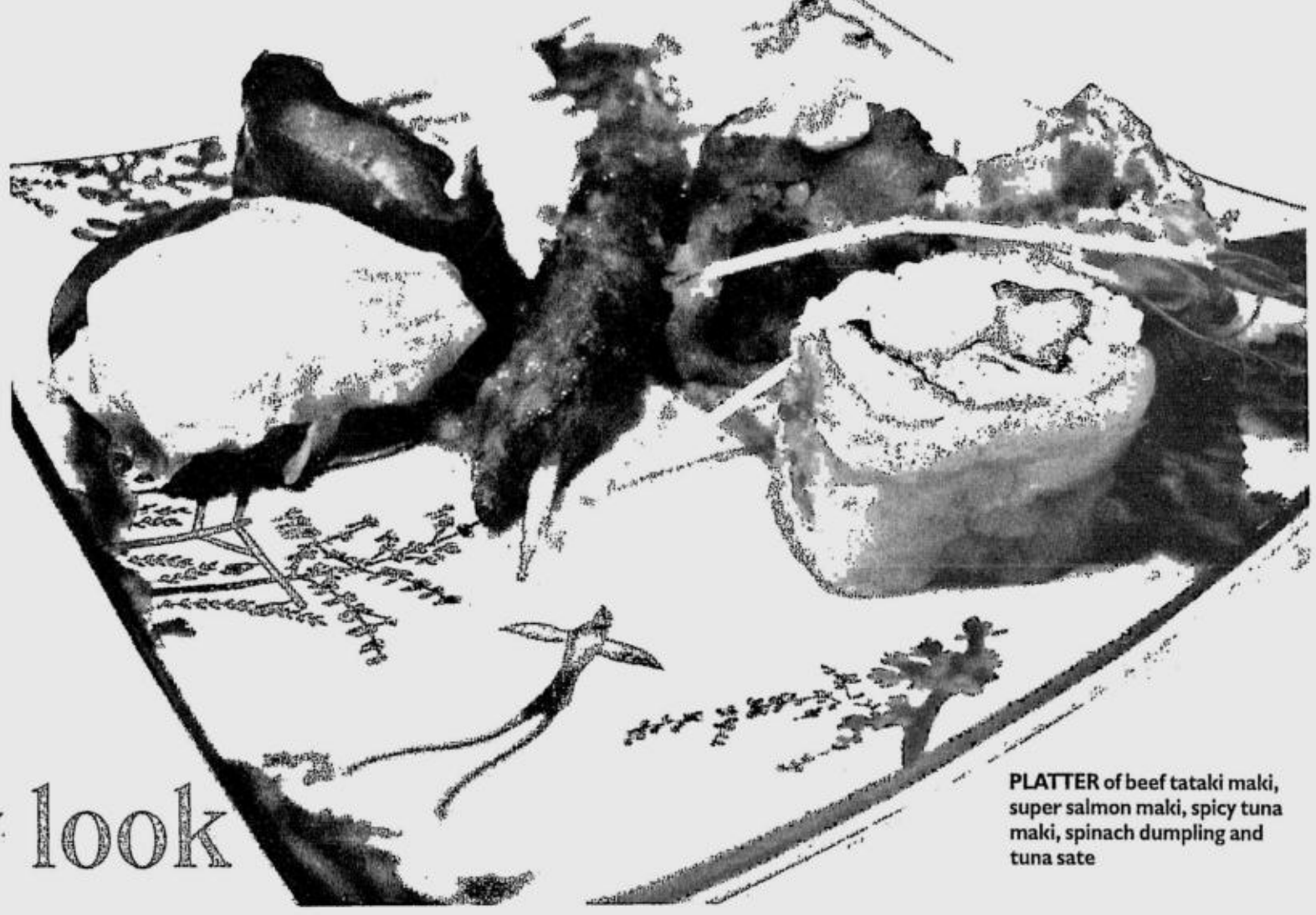
Bida ang saya!
Jollibee

East Creative Asian retains the dishes' original flavors but the plating is modern



PECAN Walnut Tart a la mode from Caffé Molinari



PLATTER of beef tataki maki, super salmon maki, spicy tuna maki, spinach dumpling and tuna sate

Authentic taste, contemporary look

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Roger Carpio

COLD Mocha

A MERRY MIX OF SOUTHEAST Asian specialties highlights the new menu of East Creative Asian (formerly East Café) on the second level of Rustan's Makati.

Prepare to be charmed by an innovative line of makis, ramens, dimsum, soups and salads creatively presented by chef Him Uy de Baron.

"The menu is eclectic," says De Baron. "It has Japanese, Chinese, Thai, Singaporean and Filipino dishes. It's all Asian, but never fusion. We try to be as authentic as we can but we always present the food in a more contemporary way. The flavors are more refined, but the food is still what it is. If I say *adobo* ribs, it's still beef ribs but plated and served nicely."

The restaurant changes its menu annually and holds regular food festivals such as the much-talked-about tofu festival, Chinese New Year and other events.

"I pick out the things that people enjoy in the festivals and incorporate them in the new menu. So, this menu is also a mix of past festivals," De Baron says.

The menu has a wide assortment of makis like Super Salmon Maki (smoked salmon with cucumber and mango), Beef Tataki Maki (beef tenderloin with avocado, tam yao and cucumber) and Ebi Tempura Maki with Kani (crunchy prawn tempura maki topped with kani salad).

All the salads are new. Not to be missed is the Salt-and-Pepper Crab Salad, soft-shell crab cooked with salt and pepper and spiced with ginger and garlic and blended with aioli on greens.

The Singaporean Lo Hei Salad is one of the more interesting items on the menu. It is a traditional Chinese New Year salad served with shredded carrots, cucumber, radish, pickled ginger, cucumber, *calamansi* and slices of salmon.

The special Lo Hei dressing, made with plum sauce, is mixed in the dish and tossed. It can be topped with crushed peanuts, black and white sesame seeds, sugar and other spices.

"It's quite a unique and refreshing dish. It's meant to bring good luck to those who eat it," says De Baron.

Main entrees consist of very filling stuff, including the Roast Hainanese Chicken Rice. The chef does not do the dish the typical way—poaching and steaming the chicken.

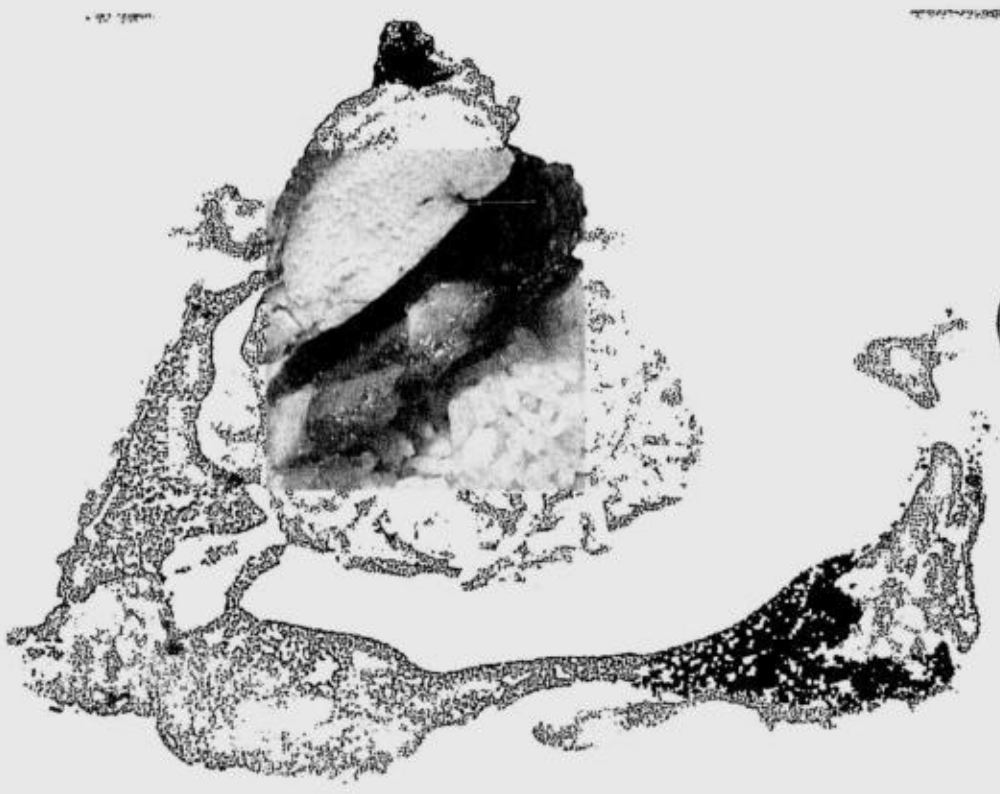
Instead, he roasts the chicken after marinating it in some strong spices, and serves it served with the traditional three sauces: sambal, ginger and sweet soy.

Many vegans go to the restaurant for its tofu specialties. Although there is no vegetarian section, it offers such items as vegetarian gyoza, maki and ramen.

"I've added more vegetarian items here because, when we launched our tofu burger a few years back, people kept asking for it. Our tofu festival every year has always been a hit," he says.

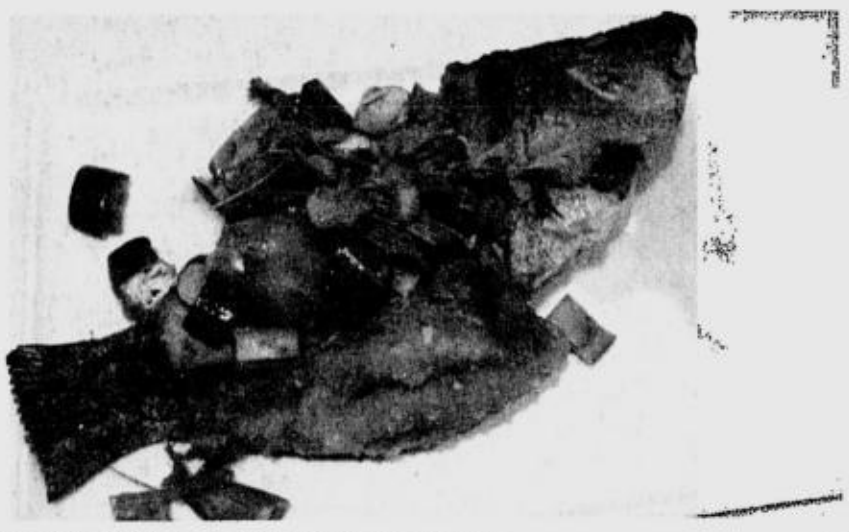
Since most of its clients are women, the restaurant serves many healthful dishes.

De Baron says, "Women shoppers here in Rustan's want to fit into size two and four dresses. So, I want to help them."

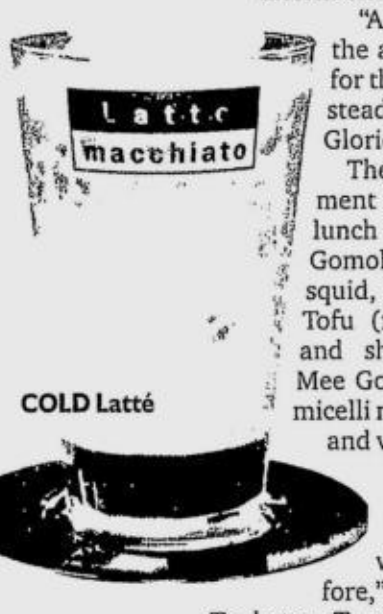


ROAST Hainanese Chicken Rice

MAROCCHINO



DEEP-FRIED Seabass with mushroom and tofu



COLD Latté

Afternoon crowd

With the new menu, East Creative Asian hopes to draw more people during afternoon *merienda* time.

"A lot of people shop during the afternoon and our goal is for them to stay in Rustan's instead of going all the way to Glorietta," says De Baron.

The restaurant has an assortment of ramens for the after-lunch crowd. Choices include Gomoko (noodles with shrimp, squid, pork and veggies), Mapo Tofu (noodles with pork, tofu and shiitake mushroom) and Mee Goreng (fresh egg and vermicelli noodles with chicken, tofu and vegetables).

"I wanted more comfort food in the afternoon. I also added sandwiches, which we didn't have before," he says.

Tonkatsu, Tuna with Tomato Jam, Curried kani with sesame crust and Tofu Burger are on the sandwich list.

To complete the snack-time experience, the restaurant has partnered with a popular Italian coffee shop.

Caffé Molinari is a 207-year-old institution in Modena, Italy. The Molinari family owns the chain of coffee shops in Italy and supplies hotels and restaurants all over the world with their coffee beans. They have their own coffee-roasting plant and use only the freshest and finest coffee beans.

Caffé Molinari has a wide array of coffee and tea concoctions. Coffee blends include Java Robusta, Jamaica Arabica Blue Mountain, Guatemala Arabica, and Costa Rica Arabica.

"Now that we have the Caffé Molinari, we don't have to use the name East Café anymore. We want to be known as East Creative Asian restaurant," says De Baron.

SINGAPOREAN Lo Hei Salad. At right, chef Him Uy de Baron adds spices to the salad, a traditional Chinese New Year dish.

CHOCO Loco Glaze

7-year-old says thanks

MR. SOFTY PHILIPPINES, which pioneered in fresh ice cream, is now 7 years old.

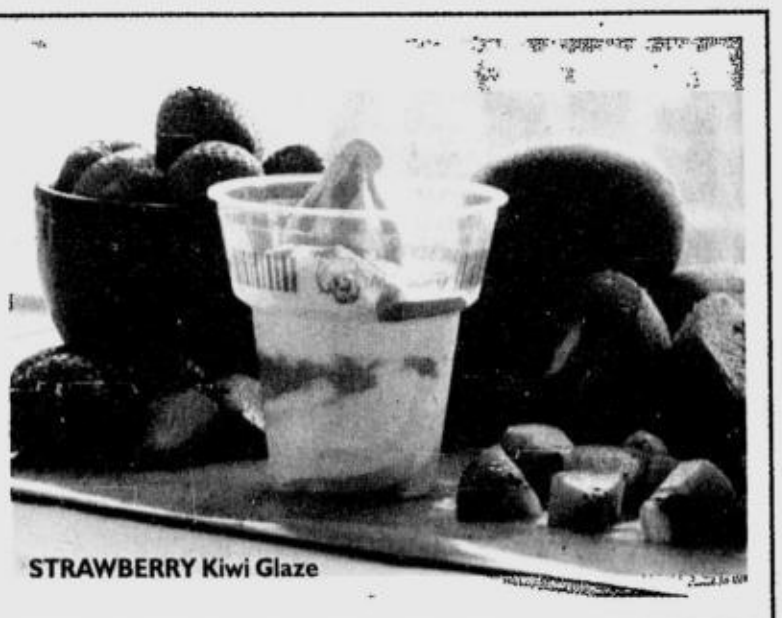
Establishing its franchise system in 2004, after three years of operation, Mr. Softy now has 175 outlets nationwide.

To celebrate its 7th anniversary, the company is offering its loyal clients new products.

Mr. Softy has included Rumble Crunch, Choco Loco, and Strawberry Kiwi Glaze and Cup with Toppings to its list of flavors.

Customers also get a chance to win a Nokia N70, iPod nano, laptop, gift certificates. The second draw will be held Nov. 11.

All non-winning entries from Aug. 22-Jan. 5 shall be included in the grand draw, which will be held Jan. 6 at the SM Megamall Activity Center. At stake is a brand-new Honda City. Venues for the first and second draws will be announced later.



STRAWBERRY Kiwi Glaze

THE CONSUMER

When being 'gaya-gaya' can be good

More and more American schools are banishing sodas and junk food from their canteens

By Linda B. Bolido

FILIPINOS ARE ALWAYS BEING ACCUSED of mindlessly following the trend in the United States.

Many attempts by Pinoys to live up to the moniker "little brown Americans" had disastrous consequences.

But here is a new development in the US, as reported by the New York Times, that Filipinos should not hesitate to adopt.

According to Kevin Sack, concern for the growing number of overweight and obese American children has sparked a quiet revolution that is steadily spreading throughout the US.

Sack said "the nation's schools have made 'considerable improvements' in nutrition, fitness and health over the last six years."

He cited a new government survey that found that more schools required physical education and fewer sold French fries in their cafeterias.

Instead, many cafeteria counters now offered salad, fruit and yogurt.

More and more schools required an hour of physical education daily. Bake sales, traditional social events in many schools, are now becoming increasingly rare occurrences.

In addition, Sack said, "More states have enacted policies to prohibit smoking at school and to require courses on pregnancy prevention. Perhaps most striking, 30 percent of school districts have banned junk food from school vending machines, up from four percent in 2000."

Although the survey conducted by the Centers for Disease Control found that three-fourths of schools still sold sodas, sale in bottled water rose from 30 percent to 46.

The basis for this healthy trend is a law Congress passed in 2004 "requiring each school district to develop a 'wellness policy' to promote the students' health by setting goals for nutrition education and physical activity."

Sepulveda Middle School in Los Angeles County has not only banned soft drinks and junk food from the school store, it has also started a class on healthy cooking for parents.

Principal Patricia J. Pelletier believes healthy kids and healthy lifestyles mean better students.

Sack said, "The survey found that nearly two-thirds of schools prohibited tobacco use in all locations, including at off-campus functions, up from 46 percent in 2000."

Many school cafeterias reported healthier cooking like removing the skin from poultry before cooking, using low-fat cheeses, etc.

There are those who will argue that among Filipino students, the problem is not the availability of unhealthy food but the ability to buy food in the first place.

That is true, of course, and the solution is much more complex. But at least for those who do buy food when they are in school, education officials can make sure they are eating healthy.

Feedback

It was not so long ago that I wrote about the persistent and annoying text messages from a bank offering loans.

That bank did manage to rein in its overzealous telemarketers but now I am getting it from agents of Standard Chartered Bank. "Nid Cash? StandardCharterdBank offers cashloan up to 1M, 4 as low as 1%, no colatral, PDC, f nterested pls txt name& landlyn # so we cn col u 4 d dtails."

The question remains, how do these people get post-paid numbers?

Others who have complained strongly suspect subscription lists of the mobile networks are being made available to telemarketers.

Meanwhile, the generosity of the D'Auditor's of Phil. Charity Foundation remains boundless. One of our editorial production assistants received a text message from a certain Alfred S. Chua informing her "dat ur celfon no. won Php500,000.00 2nd prize winner draw last: 10/15/07."

A letter writer received a similar message: "D'Auditor's of PGMA Charity Foundation n'form u dat ur celfon nos. won 750,000 2nd prize winner last draw October (8) 2007 Plz'call me now."

The sender identified himself as Atty. Roldan G. Reyes.

This is a pretty generous foundation as it appears to be holding raffles every week. Do they still have enough for whatever dogooding they are supposed to do?

And how come nobody has received a message saying he/she won first prize? What's with the second prize?

As for others who are told they won something from their networks, here's another reminder from Globe/Touch Mobile:

"Globe/TM Public Advisory: Beware of text messages asking you to share load or send GCash from unknown numbers. Please be warned that Globe Telecom never asks subscribers for Prepaid load or GCash before claiming a prize."

One Globe executive says one of the things that will clue you in that an offer is spurious is bad English.

Send letters to The Consumer, Lifestyle Section, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Mascardo and Yague Sts., Makati City; or e-mail lbolido@inquirer.com.ph

COOKING CLASSES

Rockin' rolls and seafood buffet

THE REGGIE ASPIRAS SCHOOL OF CULINARY Arts is holding the following classes:

Oct. 26: Rockin' Rolls (all new)—12 Kinds of Spring Rolls (egg rolls, shanghai, seafood shanghai, duck, curry, *lechon*, vegetable, shrimp etc.), Spring Rolls Were Never this Good, homemade sipping sauces

Oct. 27: Seafood Buffet '07 (all new, special class)—Crisp Fried Seafood with Aioli and Salsa Cruda (If only for this, this class is worth it!), Oysters Six Ways—Baked with bacon butter, with garlic boursin, with mushroom cream, with Foie Gras Butter; Shucked Raw with flavored granita, Fruit Mignonette. Baked Mussels 3 Ways: with French Herb and Garlic Butter, with Saffron Butter Cream, with Herbed Butter and Salsa. Seafood Paella Pasta. Mixed Seafood Rice "Arroz Caldoso" Style

Oct. 29—Don't We Just Love Pancit? '07 (all new)—Learn To Use Different Noodles: Pina-Sosyal na Canton, Yakisoba Like Never Before, Pancit with Pork Leg Stew (Pata-Pata), Pancit with Scallops and Coriander Pesto, Pancit with Chinese Sausage and Coriander Chips, Pork Asado Served with Pancit Salad

Oct. 31—Lapu-lapu (all new)—Live Steamed 3 Ways: Cantonese Style with Rice Wine Sauce, In Ginger Glaze with Sauteed Mushrooms & Orange Black Bean Sauce, Pan-grilled 3 Ways: with Miso Sauce, with Oriental Butter Cream Sauce & with Tomato Cream Sauce. Baked 2 Ways: with Coconut Cream Sauce, in Salt Crust with Sauces, sides.

Call 9289296 or 9273008.

A taste of Thailand

Learn Thai cooking as San Miguel Purefoods Culinary Center presents "Taste of Thailand," a special cooking class on Oct. 26, 1:30-4:30 p.m., at Legaspi cor. Eagle Sts., Bo. Ugong, Pasig City. Featured are Tum Supawadee Lungtip and Al Purugganan of Jatujak Thai Restaurant.

Fee is P900. Members of My Great Food Club get a 20-percent discount (tels. 6322000 or 6719876 loc 2771 or 402 or log on to www.mygreatfood.com).

The event is in partnership with Monterey, Magnolia Chicken Station, Purefoods Hormel, Magnolia Quickmelt Cheese, Magnolia Gold Butter, Purefoods Supremo Cane Vinegar, San Mig Coffee, Magnolia Pancake Plus and Magnolia Nutri-oil. It is sponsored by Glad Wraps, G. E. Appliances and Ariston.

Japanese home cooking

Maya Kitchen presents culinary demonstrations and offers tips on Japanese Home Cooking on Oct. 27 at 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Menu includes Kani Salad, Japanese Curry, Tonkatsu, Tempura, Japanese Spaghetti, Japanese Hamburger and Sushi.

"Coffee 101 (Barista Class)" will be conducted on Oct. 27, 2-6 p.m. It will include actual preparation of popular traditional hot coffee concoction: Espresso, Cappuccino, Latte, etc. and Cold Coffee Concoction and Spins.

"Basic Culinary" will be offered on Nov. 6-9, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. It will include basic principles of hygiene, sanitation and safety, actual preparation of dishes.

The art of making bread will be covered by "Fundamentals of Bakery Production," on Nov. 13-16, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Class covers standard baking techniques, etc.

Maya Kitchen is at 8/F, Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Avenue (formerly Pasay Road), Makati. Call 8921185 or 8925011 loc. 108, e-mail mkitchen@ultimate.info.com.ph.

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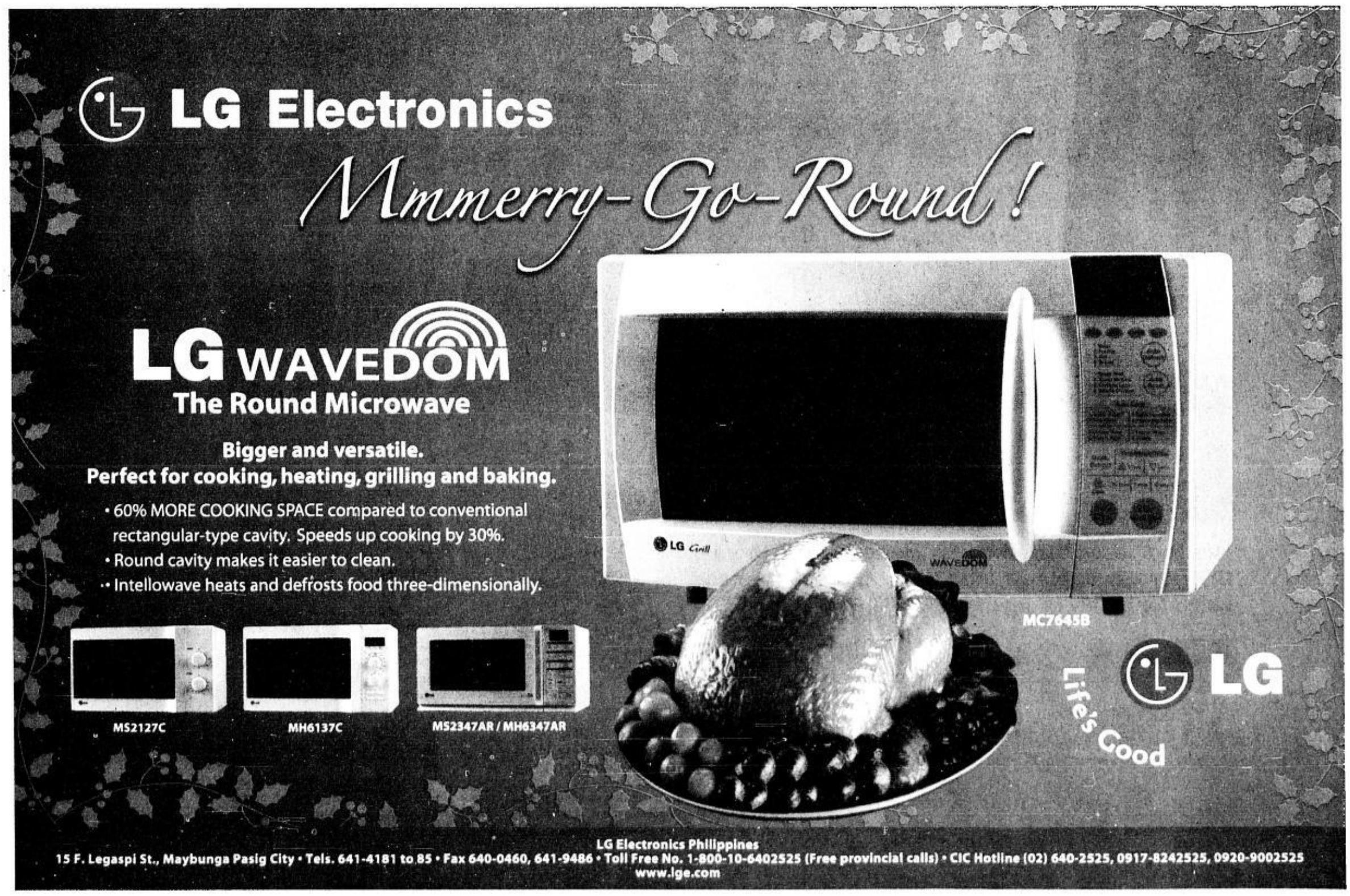
CERTIFICATE PROGRAM IN COOKING AND BAKING SKILLS

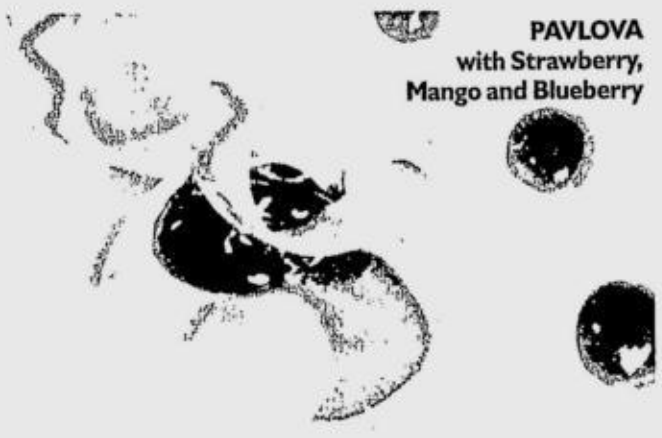
Course Description:
Lessons cover all areas of basic kitchen skills; meat, fish, poultry and seafood fabrication; vegetables; pasta and other starch accompaniments and internationally accepted standards for baking. Menu planning and wine appreciation will be part of the program.

This hands-on series is intended for individuals or kitchen enthusiasts who have no chance or schedules to take the full time professional culinary program and yet would like to acquire necessary basic skills, tools and techniques to enable them to enhance their careers or enter a more lucrative world of recreational and even, professional cooking and baking. This series will culminate with a lunch buffet prepared by the students. Graduates will merit a government regulated (TESDA), National Level 3

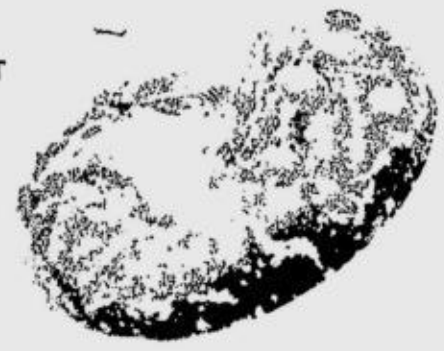
The 20-day, 28 session course will be handled by top chef-restaurateurs and consultants and will be limited to 25 students. Enrollment includes ingredients, chef's jacket, manual and chef's kit. NO HIDDEN CHARGES!

CLASSES WILL START ON NOVEMBER 11.
EVERY SUNDAYS FROM 9 - 4 PM.



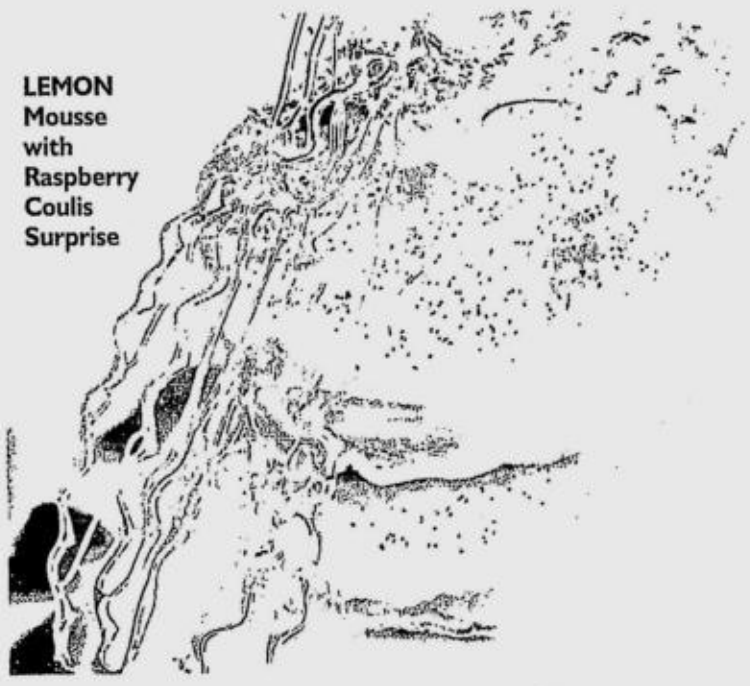


PAVLOVA with Strawberry, Mango and Blueberry

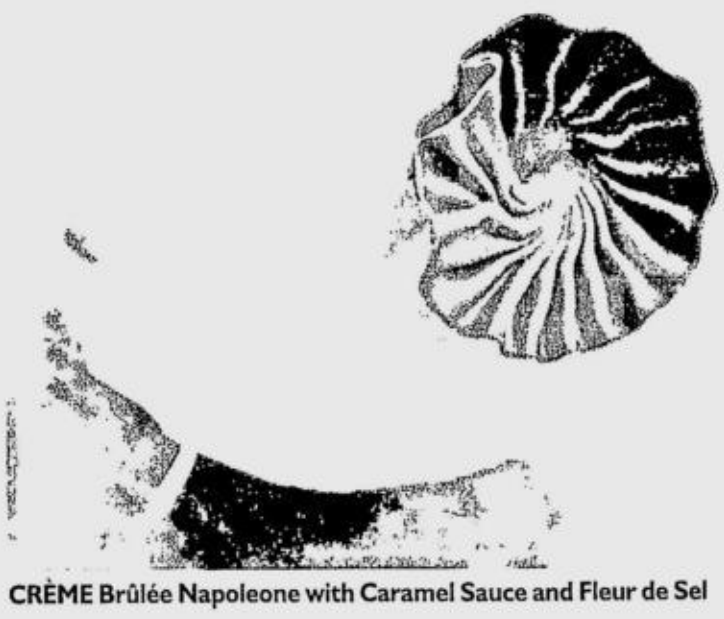


BITTERSWEET Molten Chocolate Soufflé Cake with Crème Anglaise

SPICED Hot Chocolate in Demitasse with Fresh Plump Strawberry



LEMON Mousse with Raspberry Coulis Surprise



CRÈME Brûlée Napoleone with Caramel Sauce and Fleur de Sel

5 elements of taste

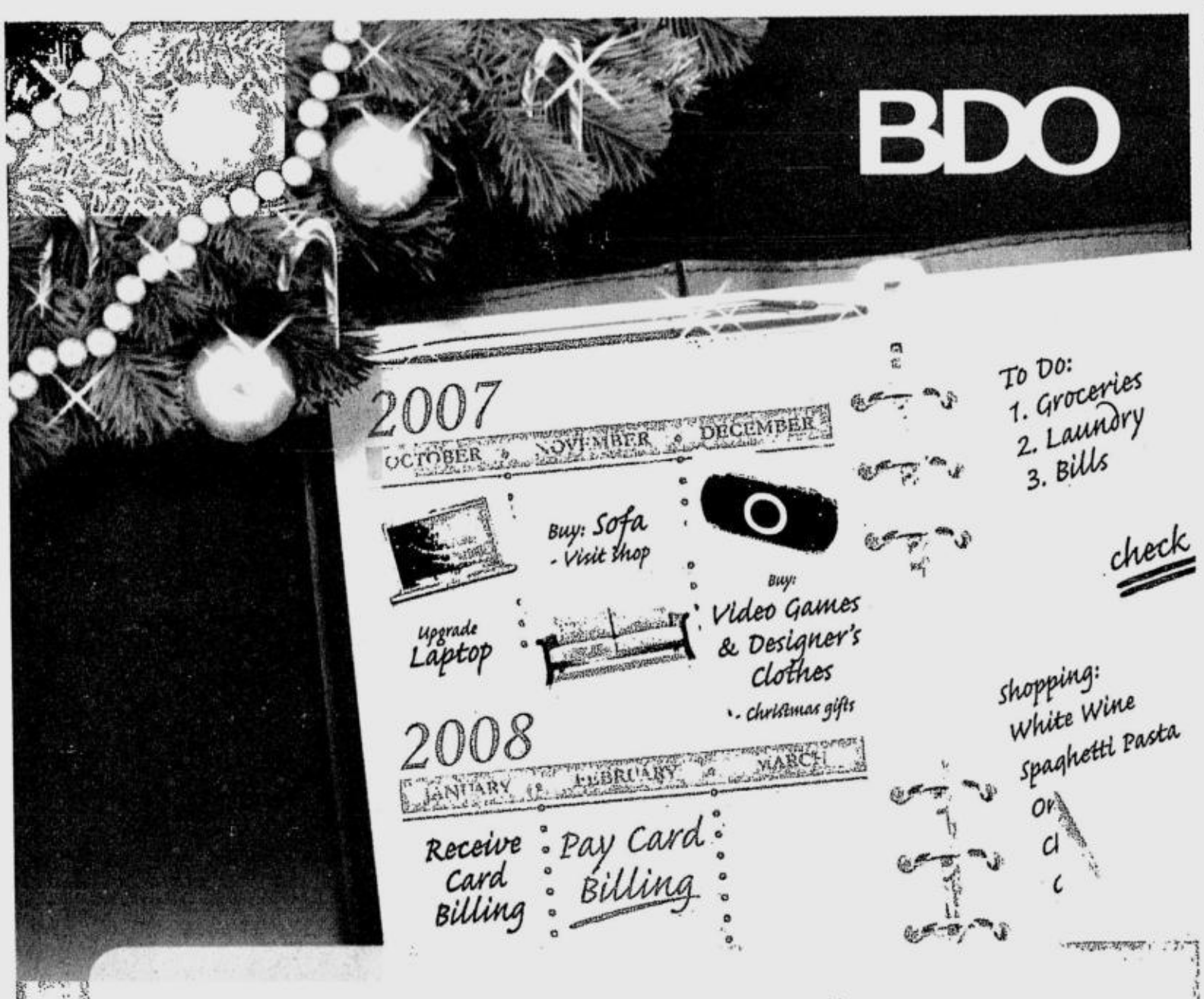
TO MARK ITS FIFTH YEAR OF serving exquisite desserts, Bizu patisserie offers "5 Elements of Taste" at its Greenbelt 2 flagship branch.

Featuring salty, sweet, sour, spicy and bittersweet dessert pieces, five-plate tasting menu set consists of Crème Brûlée Napoleone with Caramel Sauce and Fleur de Sel; Pavlova with Strawberry, Mango and Blueberry; Spiced Hot Chocolate in Demitasse with Fresh Plump Strawberry; Lemon Mousse with Raspberry Coulis Surprise; and, finally, Bittersweet Molten Chocolate Soufflé Cake with Crème Anglaise.

At P555+ a set, it's made to share as Bizu's cakes are so rich in flavor and made only with the finest ingredients.

"The tasting menu is perfect when you want to slow down, relax and try something different with friends or with someone special. It's our pleasure to delight everyone with unique in-house desserts every now and then so that our guests will have something new to look forward to at Bizu," said Anabel Tanco, general manager of Bizu.

By bringing out more exciting and innovative dessert selections such as this, Bizu hopes to elevate the dessert dining experience. Call 7572498 or 7574749.



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We find ways

More than just pastrami on rye

From page C1

rience what Sally in the movie may have been feeling, a generally wonderful experience. Myrna was more clinical when she called it *umami*, the newest taste description that is beyond the traditional sour, salty, sweet and bitter. It fills you with well-being that you would want to eat with your hands rather than use utensils because you want to be in touch with your food and feel the texture as well.

We could not finish our pastrami on rye so we had the rest of it wrapped. It was something to tide me over during the flight from New York to San Francisco, my port of exit.

American domestic flights, just like ours, do not serve food anymore even if the flight takes five hours.

Different

My Katz's pastrami did not taste as good, eaten standing at a counter at an airport café. It tasted like it was way past its prime, the bread soggy even after it had been in the toaster oven.

Myrna said she once took out a slab of pastrami and cut it later at home but it was not as good.

I suppose place has something to do with it. The ambience starts when you enter. A man hands out a ticket to everyone who walks in with a warning not to lose it. He does not tell you what will happen if you do but the warning is somehow enough.

The ticket is where the counterman places the price of your order, whether sandwich or drinks. It is then submitted to the cashier as you leave.

In this huge place with a high ceiling, the countermen are on one side and on the other is a wall with pictures of persons you do not know and some you do because they are television or movie people.

If you sit near those photographs, you will be attended to by a waiter who looks as if he has worked there for the past 70 years, slow but efficient.

In Manila, a comparable place where people have been going for so many years and enjoying the same kind of food would be Aristocrat's, Ma Mon Luk and Swiss Inn.

We could not sit at the table of Harry and Sally because the couple occupying it was relishing being there. They were enjoying their pastrami on rye, their conversation and each other, just like we were.

You could see from the smiles of the other diners that they were enjoying their experience at Katz's Delicatessen. Perhaps an item on the menu can be used to describe the feeling. The New York Egg Cream (chocolate or vanilla syrup, milk and a "spritz" seltzer) is also called "Heaven on Earth."

E-mail the author at pinoyfood04@yahoo.com

LIFESTYLE

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/lifestyle
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DEATH by chocolate. Spiral's White and Dark Chocolate Truffle Bones Cake

Spine-tingling, trick-or-treating and tummy-filling good time

Sofitel Philippine Plaza Manila flicks its magic wand this Halloween

By Irene C. Perez

FOR WIZARD WANNABES, the best thing about Halloween is dressing up in funky, outrageous costumes. But for foodies, Halloween is yet another excuse to dig into yummy treats.

Sofitel Philippine Plaza Manila flicks its magic wand and offers tricks and treats for your tummy as it transforms its Spiral restaurant into a haunted castle for the Spooktacular Halloween event.

Special menus will be served at the School of Magic Halloween Brunch on Oct. 28, 11:30-2:30 p.m., and Halloween Dinner on Oct. 31, 2-5:30 p.m.

Raw and red

And what could be "spookier" than having your food served in life-size coffins by "Dark Angels" in eerie costume and face painting styled by Happy Andrada?

Well, adults and kids could play "vampire" and partake of the "raw-and-red dinner" with cold starters like Rare Grilled Tuna with Tomato Salsa, Beet-Cured Salmon Fillet, Pumpkin Panna Cotta with Pumpkin Seed Oil and Pickled Quail Egg.

Chef Apol Solmayor, assistant *chef de partie*, said they took inspiration from Mediterranean and Indian flavors for the Halloween menu. "We also thought kids would enjoy eating 'bats and spiders' for dessert," he said.

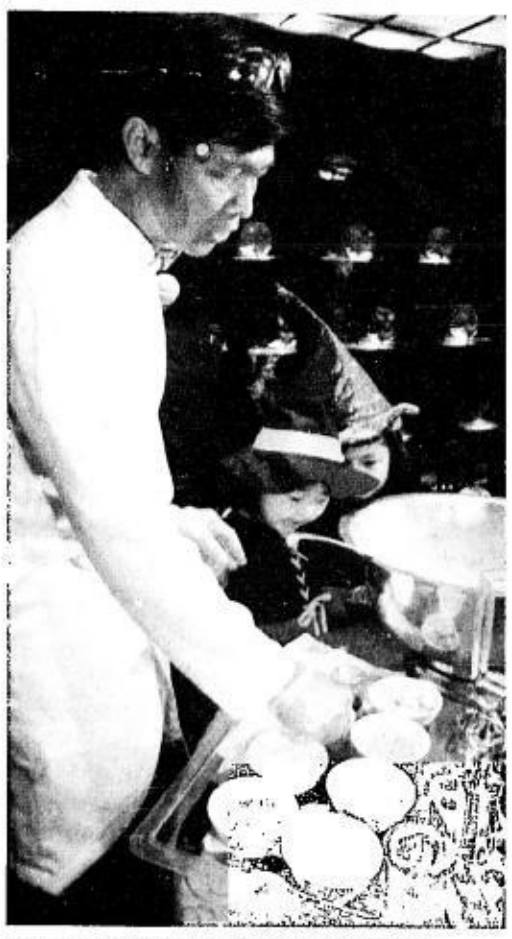
Be bewitched by the fiery Red Marinated Tandoori Items and have your kids eat veggies with pumpkin dishes like Mushroom Parcel with Curried Pumpkin Sauce, Pumpkin-stuffed Pamora Chicken with Tarragon Jus, Mashed Pumpkin and Potatoes, and Sautéed Vegetables.

"We present vegetables as attractive decorations so that they become appealing to the kids. We also focus on pumpkin for the menu," says *chef de partie* Monet Salegumba, resident kitchen artist.

Love Poison, anyone?

Drinks are formulated in "Frankenstein's ghoulish laboratory" (it reminds us of "Dex

SPINE-TINGLING/ D2



BOO. Team Spiral joins in the fun in full spooky gear complete with face paint.

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November 10, 2007 - Saturday
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PASAY ROAD Maan 8871335/8873530 0915 6893088
PASIG Michelle 6815333/6473816 0928 4763108
SM NORTH Michelle 9295429/9264215 0905 2690717
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Spine-tingling, trick-or-treating . . .

From page D1

ter's Lab," too). The Zombie's Wake-Up Drink, Love Poison and Dracula's Smoothie are served in a colorful setup of test-tubes racks, beakers and flasks.

And, of course, there are the yummy desserts. The Spider Cotton Candy could very well be cobwebs and the Spider Cheesecake will make you forget you hate those eight-legged insects; while the Bloody Chocolate Fountain, Bloody Jelly and Bleeding Doughnuts make for a serious sugar high.

And if you like your dessert semi-sweet, the White and Dark Chocolate Truffle Bones Cakes, Skeleton Pumpkin Pie and Bat Wings Cookies are a perfect match to your coffee.

Pumpkin carving

Expected crowd favorite is the Dress Up Your Pumpkin contest. While bigger kids can carve their own, the smaller ones may be assisted by Sofitel staff members.

Make Harry Potter proud and take the Haunted Walk that challenges kids to collect their loot, like packs of cereals, scoops of Magnolia ice cream and bags of chocolate candies from hidden "traps."

Besides the obligatory costume contest, other Spooktacular activities to look forward to include face-painting sessions, magician and mascot performances, an arts-and-crafts exhibit by Merit and Lyra, a Choco-Nut adventure relay, a scary storytelling session by Alitaptap Storytellers, and a fashion show featuring Sam Laurel creations.

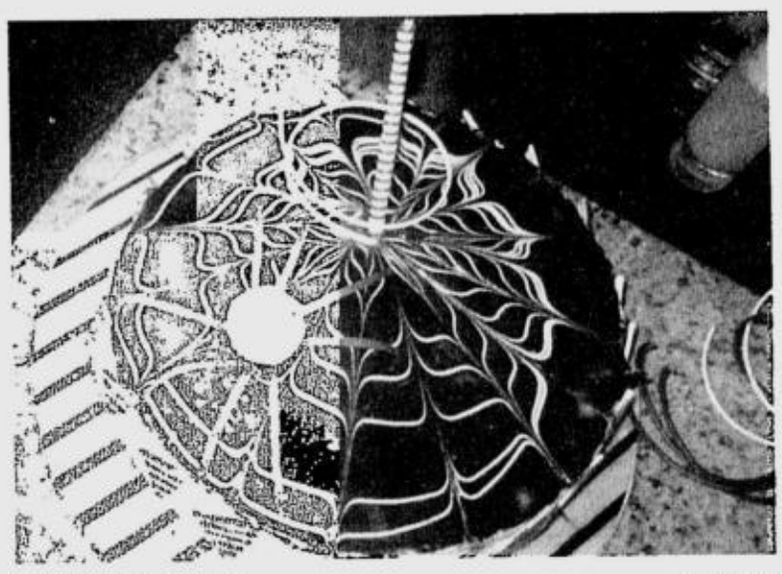
To participate in the events, avail of Sofitel's So Amazing Rooms Promo. Until Oct. 31, every guest room booked comes with two free tickets for kids that serve as day passes. Those staying for two nights can get a second room at 50-percent off. Kids who avail of the Oct. 28 Sunday brunch or Oct. 31 Halloween dinner get tickets to the Spooktacular activities. Children 6 years old and below eat for free if their parents dine at Spiral, but have to purchase a day pass at the Kid's Club (P500) to join the contest.

Call 8326993, e-mail room.reservations@sofitelmanila.com; for Spiral, call 8326988 or e-mail fbreservations@sofitel-manila.com.

SCARED of spiders? These cotton-candy cobwebs might just shoo off your fears.

RED Marinated Tandoori Items

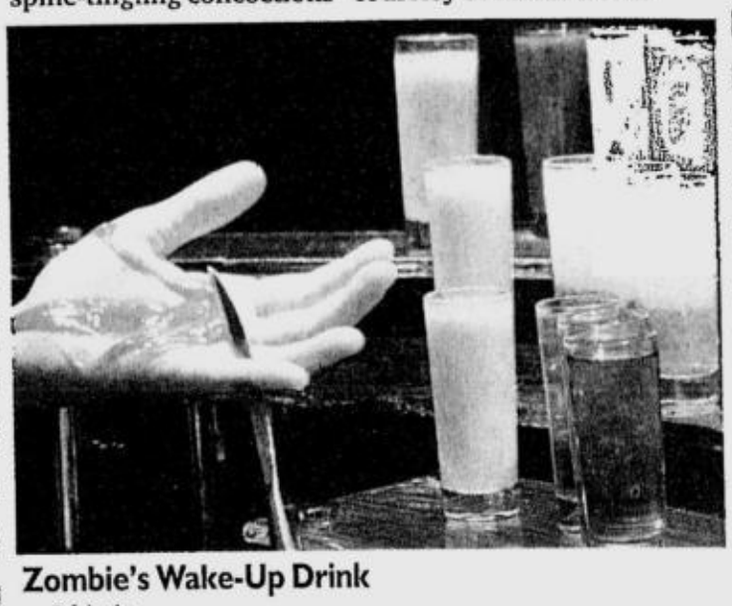
BEET Cured Salmon Fillet



SPIDER Cheesecake

IRENE PEREZ

FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN TRICK-OR-TREATING AT home, here are the recipes for some of "Dr. Frankenstein's spine-tingling concoctions" courtesy of Sofitel Hotel.



Zombie's Wake-Up Drink

2 kiwis
2 green apple (cut into 4, seeds removed)
½ banana
50 cl aloe vera juice
50 cl water
Crushed ice

Love Poison

50 cl orange juice
50 cl pineapple juice
10 cl grenadine syrup (adjust for desired color)
Crushed ice

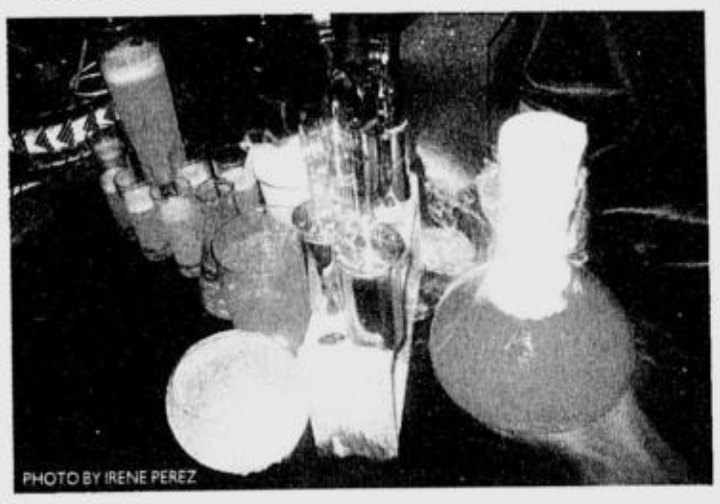


PHOTO BY IRENE PEREZ

Dracula's Smoothie

64 oz cranberries
4 cups of apple juice
4 cups of vanilla ice cream
Crushed ice

For all drinks, put ingredients in the blender and blend until smooth.

Ghoulish stuff for trick or treating

SM'S SNACK EXCHANGE HAS A SWEET and enchanting treat for kids of all ages this Halloween. Glow-in-the-dark Pumpkin Loot Bags are filled with assorted chew candies in strawberry, apple, and other fruit flavors. A Samba Halloween Hat comes with chocolate-filled bonbons.

Kids can also get ghost-shaped marshmallow treats, Trolli Gummy candies in Dracula teeth and lip shapes, Puffy Hallow Mallows, Trick or Treat Lollipops in spiral and twirly shapes.

Also available are Gandour's chocolate bars and the skull shaped Mentos Halloween Treat Box filled with flavored chew candies, Fruitella Crazy, and Chupa Chups lollipops with creepy masks.

Check out the Snack Exchange Department at all SM stores for the perfect treat for kids this Halloween.

Spooktacular doughnuts

CELEBRATE HALLOWEEN AT Krispy Kreme with four "spooktacular" doughnuts: Mr. Pumpkin Head, orange-colored vanilla-iced doughnut; Boo! Berry, vanilla-iced, strawberry-filled doughnut; Creepy Crawly Web, chocolate-dipped doughnut with a candy-shaped spider on a vanilla web; and Halloween Sprinkles, orange-colored vanilla-iced doughnut with brown and white sprinkles, available starting Oct. 25. On Oct. 31, join the Boo Bash in Bonifacio High Street, SM Megamall, Greenhills (first drive through store) and the TriNoma branch. The first 200 kids that come in Halloween costumes get free goodie bags.

Bewitching Halloween recipes

IT'S MORE SCRUMPTIOUS THAN sorcery, more potent than potions and definitely more delightful than divination. Hershey's will put you and your loved ones under a luscious chocolate spell.

Cook up some magic in the kitchen this Halloween with these enchanted Hershey's recipes. Once your loved ones get a taste of these bewitching treats, they'll happily do your bidding.

Witches' Hat Chocolate Cupcakes

¾ c (1½ sticks) butter or margarine, softened
1-2/3 c sugar
3 eggs
1 tsp vanilla extract
2 c all-purpose flour
2/3 c Hershey's Cocoa
1¼ tsp baking soda
1 tsp salt
¼ tsp baking powder
1 1/3 c water
Orange cream filling (recipe below)

Heat oven to 350°F. Line muffin cups (2½ inches in diameter) with paper bake cups.

Beat butter, sugar, eggs and vanilla in a large bowl on high-speed mixer for three minutes. Stir together flour, cocoa, baking soda, salt and baking powder; add alternately water to butter mixture, beating just until blended. Fill muffin cups 2/3 full with batter.

Bake for 20-25 minutes or until wooden pick inserted in center comes out clean. Remove from pan and transfer to wire rack. Cool completely.

Prepare orange cream filling. Cut 1½-inch cone-shaped piece from center of each cupcake; reserve. Fill the cavity created with a spoonful of orange cream filling. Put the cone-shaped pieces over the filling, pointy side up. Refrigerate before serving. Makes 2½ dozen cupcakes.

Orange Cream Filling:

½ c (1 stick) butter or margarine, softened
1 c marshmallow crème
1¼ c powdered sugar
½ to 1 tsp freshly grated orange peel
½ tsp vanilla extract
2-3 tsp orange juice
Red and yellow food color (optional)

Beat butter in small bowl; gradually beat in marshmallow creme. Add powdered sugar, orange peel and vanilla, beating until blended.

Gradually add orange juice (and food color, if desired), beating to desired consistency.

Makes about 1 1/3 cups

CEMETERY cake

Hershey's Brownie Cemetery Cake

1 pack brownie mix (about 19 oz)
1 can vanilla ready-to-spread frosting (16 oz)
1 tsp Hershey's Cocoa
4 Hershey's Cookies 'n' Crème Kisses
4 Hershey's Kisses Brand Milk Chocolates
5 Hershey's Cookies 'n' Creme Bars, divided (1.55 oz each)
5 Hershey's N More Chocolate Bars (snack size)
1 tube orange decorating icing (4.25 oz.)
1 c sweetened coconut flakes
Green food color

Line 8-inch square baking pan with foil, allowing foil to extend over sides; grease foil. Bake brownie according to directions on package then cool.

Invert brownie onto large tray; remove foil. Stir frosting and cocoa in small bowl until well blended. Frost sides and top of brownie.

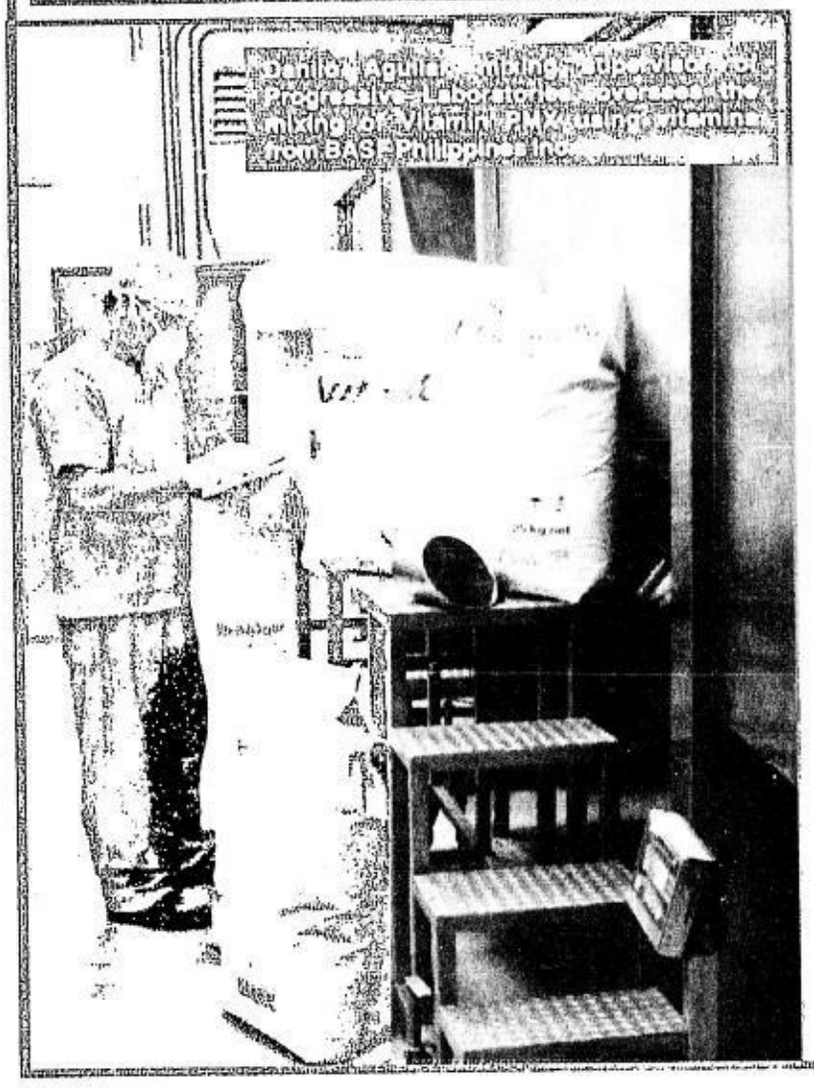
Press unwrapped Hershey's Cookies 'n' Crème Kisses upside down in all 4 corners of brownie. Place Hershey's Kisses Milk Chocolate on top of each Hershey's Cookies 'n' Crème Kisses. Unwrap 2 Hershey's Cookies 'n' Crème bars; break into 12 pieces. Press each upright piece around the outside of the brownie to resemble a fence.

Unwrap Hershey's N More bars. Hold each bar upright and cut the top on one end at an angle to resemble a tombstone. Pipe letters "RIP" with orange icing on flat side of each bar.

Combine coconut, ½ tsp water and a few drops green food color in small bowl. Toss with fork until evenly tinted. Spread over the top of the brownie. Press tombstones into the brownie.

Unwrap remaining Hershey's Cookies 'n' Crème bars; break and arrange around base of brownie to make a path and steps to cemetery.

Good feeds ensure healthy livestock



By Joel V. Nigos

Feeds are very essential to guarantee a healthy livestock. Feed ingredients should also be tested and monitored regularly since adulterated feeds can cause sudden drops in the production of livestock. When this happens, this can cause the producer to lose millions of pesos in investments. On the other hand, quality feeds ensure good livestock production which could translate to good income.

Livestock feeds

According to Dr. Ninfa Roxas, professor at the Animal and Dairy Sciences Cluster, College of Agriculture at the UPLB, livestock feeds are edible parts of plants and animals as well as inorganic materials that provide nutrients needed by animals for their normal body functions. These nutrients, she adds, include carbohydrates (soluble and fibers), fats, proteins, minerals and vitamins.

"A good livestock feed must contain nutrients in proper amounts according to the needs of animals and to their stage of growth and production. It should not contain any anti-nutritional factors such as alkaloids, mycotoxins, pathogenic microorganisms, adulterants and other substances that could impair the normal growth and function of the animal," she explains. "It should not also come from plants which have been treated with insecticides during plant culture and processing or storage," adds Roxas.

She shares further that good livestock feeds must consist of individual ingredients mixed together to provide a good balance of nutrients according to the animal's requirements. "If the amounts of these nutrients are not met, the animal will not grow normally, reproduction will be impaired, and production potential, that is, capacity to produce meat, milk or eggs will not be attained. Worse, if feed quality is poor due to contamination with anti-nutritional substances, the animals may become vulnerable to diseases," she explains.

A number of substances may be added to feeds to improve their nutritional value and ensure healthy animals. Vitamins and mineral premixes may be added to supplement the nutrients that are lacking or may be lost in the feeds due to processing or storage. Enzymes are added to improve the digestibility of nutrients in feeds. Antioxidants also prevent undue development of rancidity due to high oil content. Toxin binders, meanwhile, absorb the toxic substances produced by molds on the feeds while organic acids help in eliminating pathogenic organism in the digestive systems, favoring the beneficial microorganisms.

Phytase

One such substance is phytase. Shares Dr. Patrick Talavera, senior business manager at Animal Nutrition, BASF Philippines Inc., phytase is an enzyme that occurs in many plant seeds such as cereals and soy beans and is formed by many microorganisms such as fungi, yeasts, bacteria and rumen microbes.

"In animal nutrition, it is used to release the bound phosphorus, also known as phytate phosphorus from plant feed ingredients like corn, wheat and rice bran making it digestible and available to the animals. Phytate phosphorus accounts for about two-thirds of the phosphorus content of feed ingredients of plant origin. As a result, animals poorly utilize this nutrient from these ingredients. Commercially, the phytase enzyme is available as an animal feed additive from BASF and the trade mark is Natuphos," he shares.

As for its benefits, he adds, "The animal raiser can generate significant amounts of cost savings because Natuphos reduces the need for dietary supplementation with inorganic mineral components or amino acids while maintaining a high level of performance and carcass quality."

"On the basis of so many tests, Natuphos is now incorporated in the least cost feed formulation using its nutrient matrix values. In doing so, the farmer can save from P 5 up to as high as P 25 per 50 kg bag of feed depending on the current market prices of raw materials. This is also the reason why more and more feed companies and farms are now using Natuphos.

Natuphos is a three-phytase produced by non-pathogenic strains of Aspergillus niger in large scale fermentation processes. Its addition to the finished animal feed complements the limited spectrum of endogenous enzymes in pigs and poultry, enabling them to break down phytate. Natuphos, being a phytase enzyme, releases phytate-bound phosphorus from plant feed ingredients. The release of phosphorus also causes other bound nutrients such as calcium, magnesium, zinc, iron, amino acids and energy sources to lose their binding site on the phytate. As free molecules, they are now free to be absorbed and used by the animal's body.

Asked how one can differentiate the efficacy of the phytases present in the market, he says, "Currently, there are a lot of commercial phytases already available in the market. To differentiate these products, one has to look at the following parameters like pH profile, temperature profile and bio-availability profile. In many studies conducted, Natuphos demonstrated a high activity in a broad pH range within the gastro intestinal tract of the animal as compared to other commercial phytases. Natuphos 5000 G has also been proven to be stable at feed pelleting temperatures of up to 85 degrees Celsius whereas other competing phytases lose their potency starting at 70 degrees Celsius. Natuphos has also been found to release nutrients by as much as two times more than competing products. Hence, it is the leading phytase product in the feed industry.

Cited by Harvard

Qualibet Testing Services Inc., founded by its president and CEO Pinky Tobiano, offers proximate analysis for feeds, aflatoxin, vitamin and antibiotic analysis, stability studies at three accelerated temperature, microbiological analysis and water analysis for farms. The firm is a modern-testing facility accredited by the Bureau of Animal Industry, an attached agency of the Department of Agriculture.

Tobiano is a cancer survivor who has made it her personal advocacy to ensure food and water safety for all and not just for a privileged few. She's a BS Chemistry graduate from UST and prior to establishing Qualibet, she took the "Owners President Management Course" at Harvard from 2000-2003. Recently, she's been cited by Harvard Business School as an outstanding alumni for her efforts in consumer empowerment in the Philippines. She's the first Asian alumni to have been given that recognition.

The BAI has the sole responsibility of ensuring the consuming public that the poultry and livestock that are available in the market are safe and antibiotic-free.

"The BAI has been very strict and uses international standards in testing feed ingredients (soybean meal, fish meal, wheat corn), feed additives, that are imported by local traders. The agency always maintains that there's no shortcut for safety because the feeds that the livestock eat are in turn ingested by humans," Tobiano states.

The BAI has accredited the services of Qualibet to expedite laboratory results used for import permits and veterinary drug registration. Its Feed Control Division specifically is the one that conduct tests on feeds. Aside from the DA, Qualibet has also been tapped by the Department of Health and the Department of Trade and Industry for their various testing requirements.

Quality is better

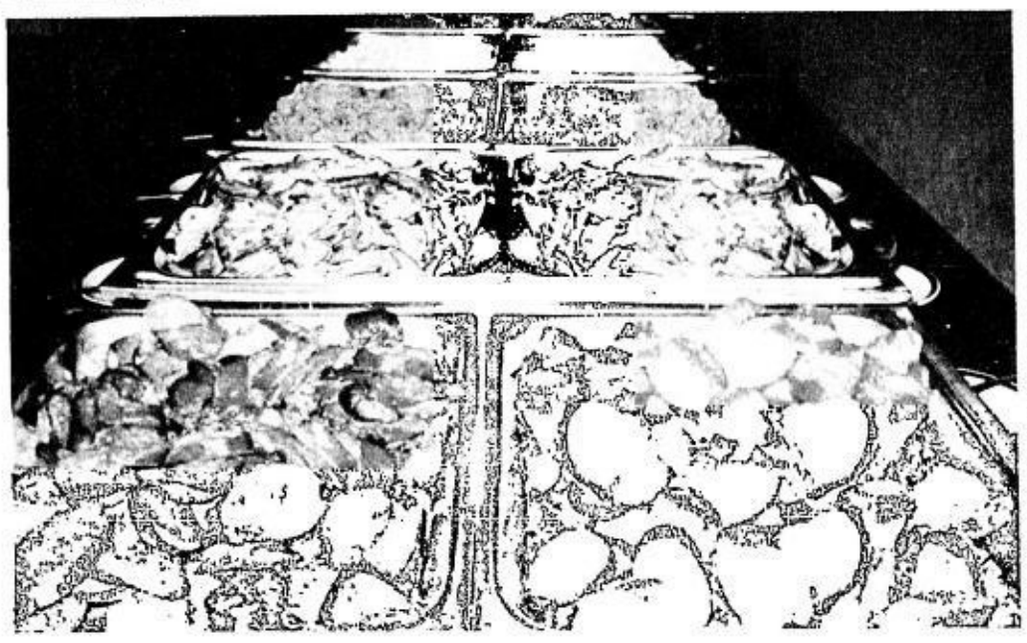
Qualibet, which is short for quality is better, is a food, water, pharmaceutical and veterinary testing facility. It is also the newest and boasts of the most modern testing facility in the Philippines managed by US-trained chemists, pharmacists, microbiologists who are highly trained in various fields such as internal audit, validation of testing procedures or methodologies, and cross training to continuously meet the changing needs of analysis. The company is also affiliated with the American Chemical Society and is also ISO 90001-certified.

In addition to animal feed testing, Qualibet also provides proficiency tests to feed mills and integrators. Several feed mills tap Qualibet to constantly monitor the quality of their feeds for their protein, fat, fiber and moisture content. Qualibet also conducts seminars on Good Manufacturing Practices.

Tobiano says that since microorganisms are present in almost all stages of the food process-in this case the raising of poultry and livestock up to the final food preparation in the homes-it is really very important that safety and utmost care is taken by all stakeholders in the poultry and livestock business. Indeed, even in this industry, an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure.

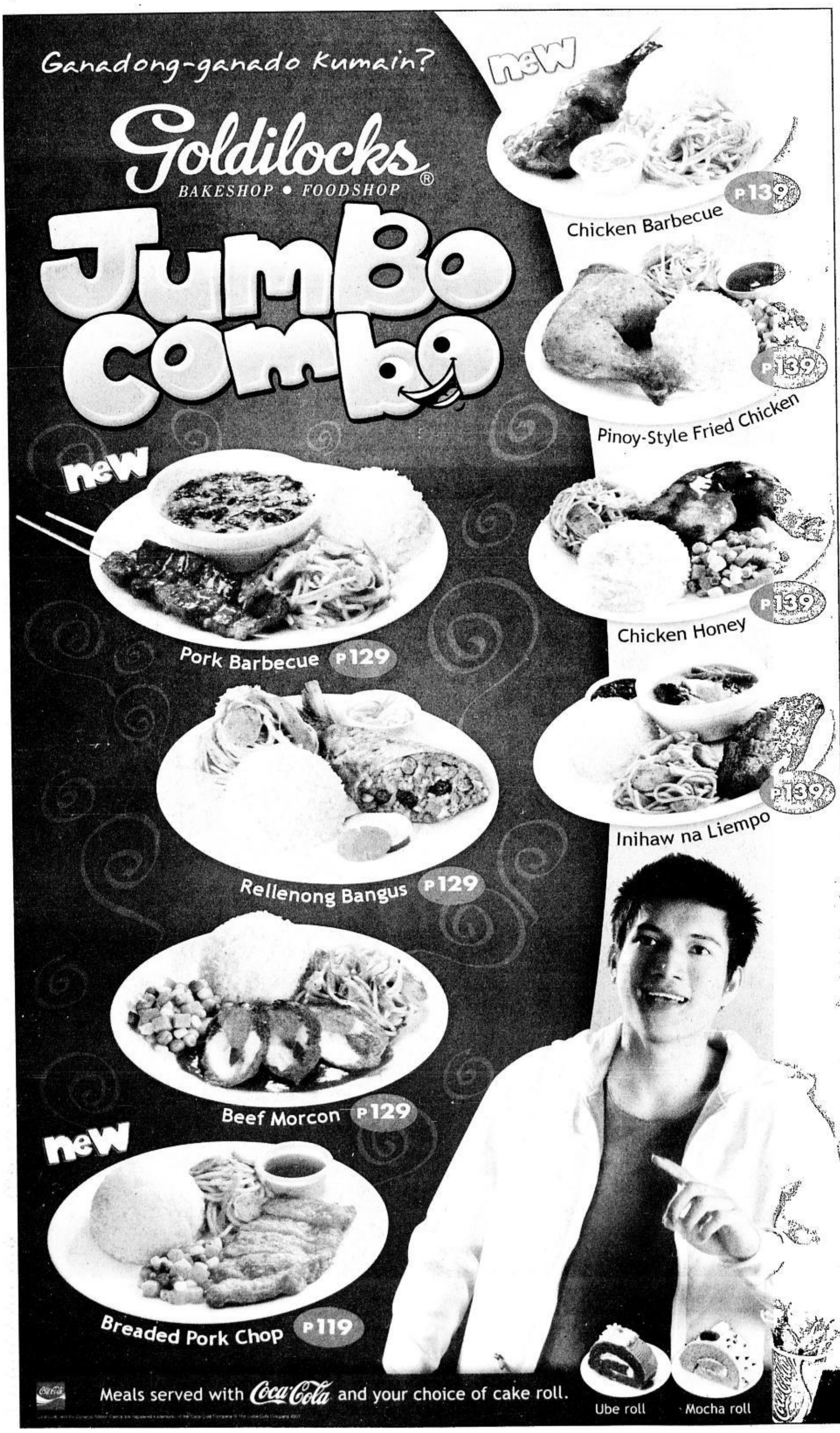
DINING OUT

CLAWDADDY Crabhouse and American Grill opens at Bonifacio High Street, Global City. It offers a seafood feast of crabs, lobsters, freshwater prawns, New Zealand mussels, clams. Other favorites include the Cajun Seafood Basket and Clawdaddy's Baby Back Ribs. A must-try is the Skillet Sensations. Call 6365679.



BREAKFAST BUFFET
Somethin' Fishy features buffet breakfast for only P89, from 12 midnight-10 a.m. (the following day), Monday-Sunday. Enjoy all-you-can-eat beef *tapa*, tocino, *longganisa*, *daing na bangus*, pork *adobo*, cheesedog, chicken *adobo*, beef *mami*, *palitaw*, *palabok*, pancake, scrambled eggs, garlic rice, plain rice and *arroz caldo*. Call 4216412 or text 0917-8EWCITY.

Halloween specials for all ages



MAKATI SHANGRI-LA PRESENTS MONSterrific Halloween on Oct. 28 at the Rizal Ballroom. Adults pay P1,288 and kids, P888. Call 8400884 or 8138888 local 7588/7599.

DUSIT Hotel Nikko presents "Halooween Classics," Oct. 27, at Fiesta San Miguel. Diners who partake of the kiddie lunch buffet on Oct. 27 at Fiesta San Miguel gain access to the House of Horror. The lunch buffet is priced at P400. Call 8673333.

BURGOO makes Halloween special for kids. On Oct. 31 and Nov. 1, all kids in Halloween costumes who dine at any Burgoo outlet will get special loot bags with chocolates, toys and candies. Every order (any dish) by an adult lets a kid eat for free.

GUMBO offers special Halloween treats. On Oct. 31 and Nov. 1, kids in Halloween costumes automatically get special gift bags. And for every order of adult meal, kids get a free kiddie meal.

THE RENAISSANCE Makati City Hotel offers a smorgasbord Sunday brunch special, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. The buffet is priced at P850 (adult) and P425 (kids 12 years old and below). It includes international and Asian favorites. Call 8116888.

HYATT Hotel and Casino's The Fireplace offers classic "game" favorites. Game is the meat from any wild animal like deer and hare. Classic dishes include Venison Fillet with Fricassee of Mushroom and Asparagus Vol au Vent in Red Currant Sauce; Wild Hare Fillet with Forest Mushroom Risotto; Pink Roasted Roe Deer Steak with Red Wine Braised Red Cabbage; and Napkin Dumpling in Port Wine Honey Sauce. Call 2451234.

HYATT Hotel and Casino's The Pastry Boutique features chef Johann Dreisger's version of Austria's classic dessert, the Sacher Cake, this October. Call 2451234.

MANILA PAVILION'S Patisserie features German goodies this month. Available is the Schwarzwalder Kirsh Torte, one of Germany's most loved cakes. It is a version of the Black Forest Cherry Cake. Haensel und Gretel's cakes and cookies are also available until Oct. 21 Call 5261212 local 2326.

BALI BLENDS, a restaurant and coffee shop offering authentic Indonesian fare, has opened at Westgate Filicity, Alabang. Next to it is Rumah Makan that specializes in Indonesian *soto* (soup) and *sate* (skewered meats and seafood). They also sell Indonesian sauces, tea, coffee and shrimp crackers. Call 8503514.

SPLENDIDO TAAL at Tagaytay Ridge Road, Laurel, Batangas is celebrating Oktoberfest until Oct. 28. A special a la carte menu for lunch and dinner features dishes by Jaka director for culinary services Eduardo Quimson and executive sous chef Tristan Bayani. Call 0920-9471840

Spirits gather at Reunion Square

HALLOWEEN IS A 2000-YEAR-OLD tradition that dates back to the Gaelic Festival Samhain, celebrated by the ancient Gaels to mark the end of the harvest season.

On this day, Oct. 31, the boundaries between the dead and the living were supposed to overlap allowing the nonliving to cause sickness and damage to crops.

Now marked Halloween, the day features costumes, trick or treat, games and scary decor.

On Oct. 26, Reunion Square at the Remedios Circle in Malate, Manila, calls on all would-be spirits and challenges them to don the scariest costumes for another memorable and exciting Halloween ball. Prizes await the spooky creatures that enter its doors. Call 5216682.

LIFESTYLE

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Reggie's phone book II

Park Avenue Desserts—Mango Napoleon/Climax	8346636
Mida Foods (wholesale seafood suppliers—everything that swims),	5240006
Truffle-stuffed Mochi,	7271229
Mrs. Howard's (Sandwich Crabstick on Cheesy Onion Bread)	4121682
Indian food order,	8192892
Personalized plates/initial/ logo-stamping,	8330003
Maids uniforms (home service—Japan)	6798837, 0919-8493019
Food order (Sushi Platters, Omakaze)	6376013
Made-to-order beautiful dining tables and furniture in wood (Omeng Esguerra)	7766394
Gift wrapping/ made-to-order packaging (Ruby Limjap)	0920-9506025, 6367547
Dessert buffet and banana cream pie (Baba Ibazeta)	0917-5245892
Cinnamon-flavored pancake mix	0919-3123530
Fried milk/*pinsec frito* (San Jacinto)	6715942
Noel Bernardo, best restaurant designer	6332433
Nice baby clothes (overruns)	8964802
Photo books (your picture album in book, Paolo)	0917-8110393
Children's party packages and best party host (Peps Avecilla)	0917-8437377
Signage (Paul Yap)	0917-8133220
Best fondant cakes (Penk Ching)	0917-8122676
Gelatin, flavorings, extracts, baking supplies (Peter Co)	2515302-06
All types of kitchen gadgets/ food machines (popcorn, slush, nachos, French fries, soft serve ice cream, cotton candy), Pfescorp	5312810, 5311990
Cheapest source of exotic flowers, potted bromeliads, lotus (Insular Botanical)	042-5407822
Tarta de Madrid	3732789
Quimson's Kitchen (Iberian chicken, *lengua de gato*)	8188077
Gooey toffee bars	5251648, 6717606
Food photographers	
Mark Floro	0917-5258143
Ernie Rubia	0917-5318309
Home-service pilates (Josan)	9333522, 0917-3590888
Giant *chicharon*, best baked Virginia Ham, boiled corned beef (Plaza)	0917-7182200, 8908391
Flavored popcorn	0922-8791317
Lechon bake by the slab and affordable steaks (Vinia)	9265647, 0918-9104913
Fruits, vegetable, herb and flower seeds	3713482
Piglets (suckling pig)	5249948
Jill's Yummy Pistachio Sans Rival	7217022
Acoustic trio (very good, old songs), Rox Puno	0920-9137003
The Bloomfields band (songs from the '50s and '60s)	0920-9032320
Art Manuntag (Tony Bennett of the Philippines)	0920-9209051
Saxophone (Vince)	0915-6412407
Steak *bangus* belly (wholesale)	8179497
Wholesale Australian and Spanish wines, wine seminars (Sherwin)	0917-5259887
Wholesale wines California, Happy Living	8994699
French, Sommeliers	8404211
Affordable silicone baking pans (wholesale)	0917-5265604
Food bottles all shapes and sizes (SMC Bottling)	2427458
Yeast, chocolate baking products (wholesalers, free baking consultation and seminars), Sonlie	0920-9080248
Diet food delivery (Sostanza)	4390603
Stainless-steel contractors (Ghie)	0917-8123951
Coffee, coffee machines and flavored syrups for coffee (EQ)	8684168
Flavored syrups for cocktails (Monin)	0918-9701766
Flavored *taho* by the bucket	0917-8141200
Delicious *tapa*	5236281
Excellent *lumpiang hubad* with peanut sauce	6330205
Glitter tattoo	0922-8027070
Mama Rosa Catering (*pako* salad, fish roe and scallop noodle),	0917-5326900
Pumpkins, ornamental gourds, flowers (wholesale)	9299306
Wagyu beef and US meat (wholesale), Anna	6317228-30
PTC (wholesalers of US meat, turkey, lamb, seafood)	2568831-38 /2564430

Reinventing the Ilocano 'empanada'

KITCHEN RESCUE
Reggie Aspiras

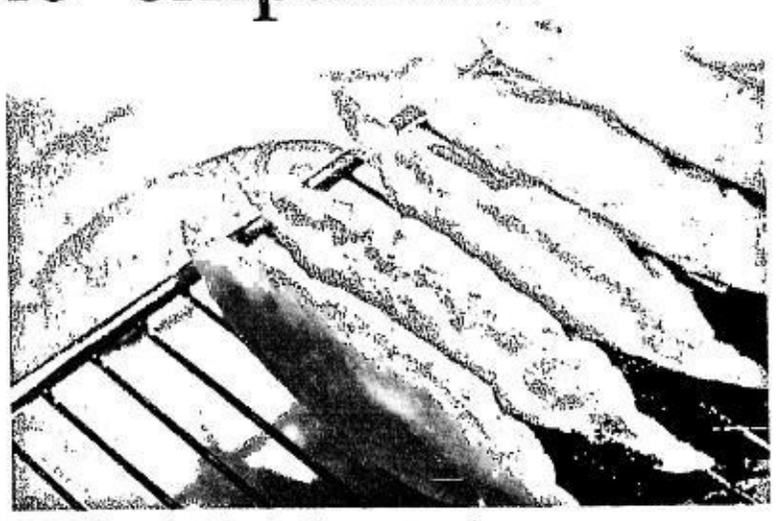
TACO ILOCANO WAS BORNE OUT OF Carlo and Antoinette Ocampo's love for Ilocos *empanadas*. For them, trips to the north were never complete without visits to the famous plazas for these delicious treats.

Their top three favorites: Batac, Laoag and Vigan. "We like Batac the most because it has the tastiest *longganisa* with a strong garlicky punch, Laoag for its color and the actual taste of the crust. Vigan's *empanada* had a much lighter color and thinner crust but didn't have *longganisa*."

After deliberating for so long, the husband-and-wife tandem decided to do their own version fusing the best components—Laoag's crust and Batac's filling.

They wanted authenticity so nothing was spared. They scavenged for the best recipes in the north, perfected them and every week had the ingredients brought to Manila.

REINVENTING / E3



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A diario novela by CARLO J. CAPARAS

To have and to hold

Art: ARNEL A. AVETRIA

A. LIPIN — BY JESS ABRERA

PUGAD BABOY — BY P.M. JUNIOR

GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS

BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

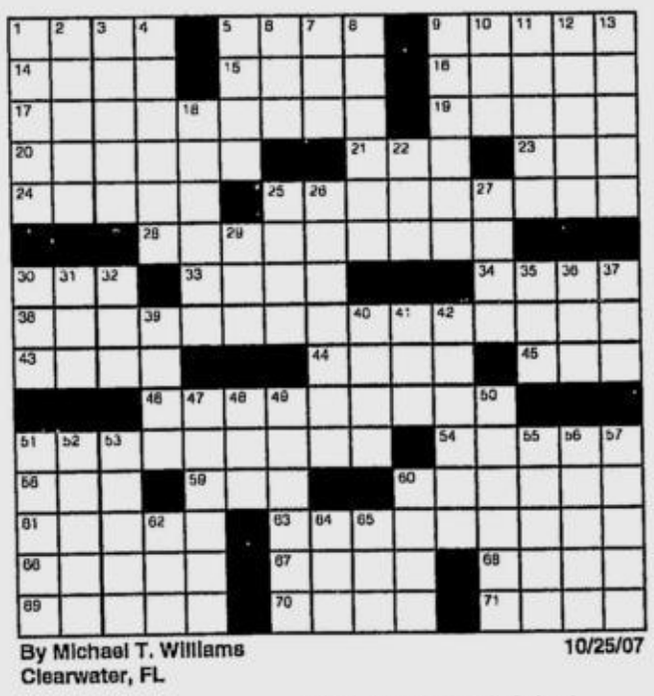
ATOMO AND WEBOY — BY LYRA GARCELLANO

LOVEKNOTS — BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

KIKO MACHINE — BY MANIX ABRERA

BEN — BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Michael T. Williams
Clearwater, FL
10/25/07

ACROSS
1 Reagan's Secretary of State
5 Urgent letters
9 Painter's base
14 English composer
15 "Fiesque" composer
16 Lead to seats
17 Start of Tom Smothers quip
19 Home or bed follower
20 Try hard
21 NYC subway line
23 Goddess of folly
24 "Die Lorelei" poet
25 Part 2 of quip
28 Taking all into account
30 LAX stat
33 Classify
34 __ mater
38 Part 3 of quip
43 Transition point
44 Actress Menken
45 Mel of the Giants
46 Brought to you (by)
51 Part 4 of quip
54 Mausoleums
58 Actor Wallach
59 Mr. Hope
60 Dollar bill artist
61 Kid of early TV
63 End of quip
66 "As You Like It" role
67 Ms. Fitzgerald
68 Abba of Israel
69 On the qui vive
70 559, once
71 Beatty film

DOWN
1 Very severe
2 Craggy crest
3 Arboreal lemur
4 Zodiac sign
5 Winglike parts
6 Plopped down
7 Mr. Baba
8 Presumes
9 Composer Mahler
10 Approx.
11 Wheat bundle
12 Pac. pact
13 Arrangement
18 Nevertheless
22 Slugger's stat
25 Workers' rights grp.
26 Endure longer then
27 Sweetie
29 Bovine
30 Sight organ
31 Director Browning
32 Calendar abbr.
35 Delibes or Buscaglia
36 Came across
37 Colony critter
39 Viper collective
40 Japanese vegetables
41 Corncob
42 Presley hit, "In the __"
47 Lt. Kennedy's vessel
48 Now I see!
49 Collared
50 Gloomier
51 Muslim holy city
52 Architect Saarinen
53 Market channel
55 Perhaps
56 Kind of daylight?
57 Takes aback
60 Tunisian port
62 360-deg. curve
64 Each and every one
65 MCII halved

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

E	B	A	N		B	L	A	B		S	E	D	E	R
R	U	L	E		R	I	C	A		E	R	A	S	E
A	L	O	E		U	G	H	S		T	E	S	T	S
	B	U	R	Y	T	H	E	H	A	T	C	H	E	T
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V	A	S	S	A	L		R	U	D	E		F	U	N
A	R	E	A	S		P	A	N	E		L	U	N	A
S	I	N	K	T	H	E	B	I	S	M	A	R	C	K
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S	K	E	I	N		R	A	G	A		A	R	A	M
C	U	R	R	Y		I	L	E	R		S	I	V	A
H	A	R	E	M		L	A	R	D		E	D	E	L

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HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're physical in your approach to life; plus you have a marvelous imagination. You're highly reliable. (But you do like to be in control of things.) Frequently, you find yourself in situations where others depend on you. You like to live life fully and will be glad to know that the year ahead could be one of the best years of your life!

Birthdate of: Marion Ross, actress; James Carville, political commentator; Pablo Picasso, painter, sculptor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Unexpected news about alternative health remedies might interest you. Ditto for surprising news about pets. Your job routine definitely will be interrupted.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Love at first sight could take place today. Surprise flirtations definitely will give you a lift. Parents should be extra vigilant about children. (This could be an accident-prone day for them.)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Surprise company might drop by at home today. (Stock the fridge.) Alternatively, expected company might be a no-show. (Go figure.) Something will disrupt your domestic expectations.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You're keen for adventure and excitement today! Perhaps this is why you'll meet new faces or go to new places? Today, anything can happen!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Be watchful about your money and your possessions. You might find money; you might lose money. Whatever happens, it will be very quick, and you will have to act fast!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You're in the mood for something different to happen. You're up for adventure. Close friends and partners could surprise you. (At least that's interesting.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You're restless! It's the Full Moon today, and in addition to this, retrograde Mercury is in your sign. (Whew!) Just go with the flow and be flexible with changes as they occur.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You might meet a new friend today. Perhaps someone you already know will surprise you in some way. It's very tough to predict what others will do today.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Some of you might develop a crush on your boss today. Others will be surprised by their boss! Either way, this is not a boring day, especially with the authority figures in your life.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Unexpected opportunities to travel or get further training or education in some way could suddenly arise today. Your window of opportunity will be brief; therefore, act quickly!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Surprise gifts and goodies can come your way today. Keep your pockets open and your eyes peeled. Be prepared to respond, because you won't have time for second thoughts.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Someone close to you probably will surprise you in some fashion today. Similarly, you might meet a serious new love. Hmmm.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU

Conceptis SudoKu By Dave Green

1	4						3	2
7								9
			5		8			
		8			2	5		
		6		3		1		
		7	1			4		
			9		4			
6								8
3	5						6	4

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/25

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

2	6	1	3	8	5	4	7	9
3	7	9	4	2	6	8	1	5
4	8	5	7	1	9	6	2	3
1	5	6	8	7	4	3	9	2
8	2	7	1	9	3	5	6	4
9	4	3	6	5	2	1	8	7
6	9	2	5	3	1	7	4	8
7	3	4	9	6	8	2	5	1
5	1	8	2	4	7	9	3	6

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10-24

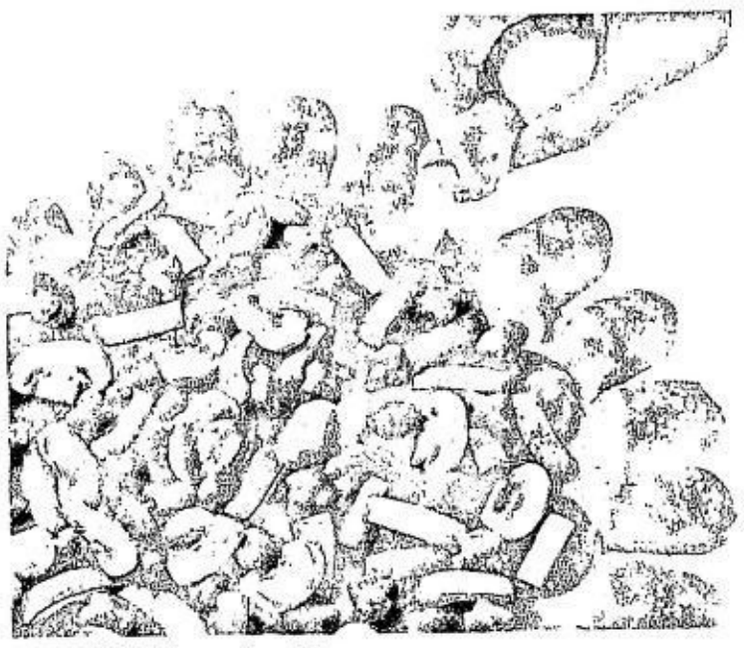
Asian restos fight hunger

PIZZA HUT AND TACO BELL Philippines, members of Yum! Asia, have teamed up with restaurants all across Asia in a campaign to ease hunger among 800 million people around the world.

Yum! Asia is teaming up with the United Nations' World Food Program (WFP), the world's leading humanitarian hunger-relief organization in the Philippines, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam to raise awareness of the problem and to raise funds.

According to WFP statistics, some 800 million people worldwide, mainly women and children, are hungry and malnourished. It takes only P8 to feed a child each day.

Activities include fun runs and walkathons in Singapore and Indonesia aimed at Yum! Asia employees.



PIZZA HUT Cheesy Pops Pizza

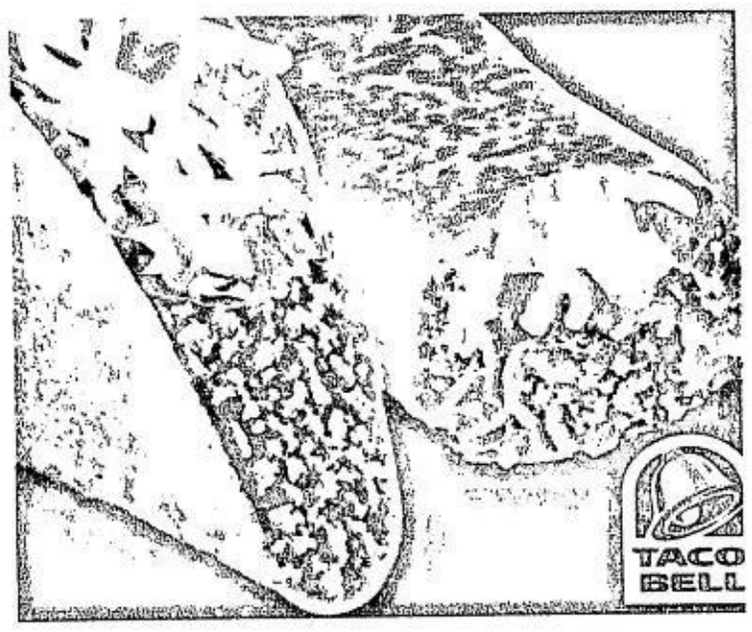
In restaurants across the region, posters, donation boxes, tray liners and donation icons will be used to increase awareness of hunger and call people to action.

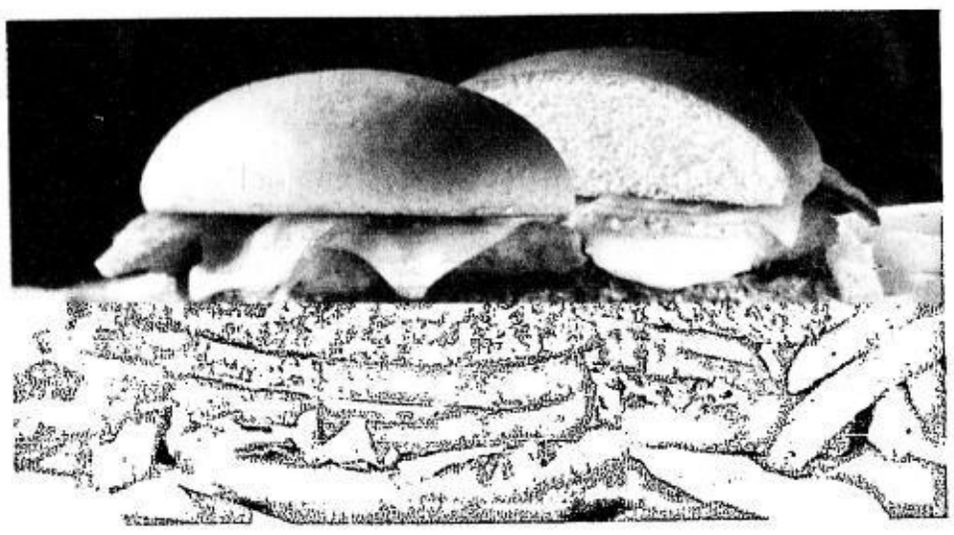
The two-week campaign in the Philippines will consist of charity programs for the benefit of malnourished children in Barangay Pili, Bicol. Focus will be on rehabilitating preschoolers.

The project is in collaboration with Kids Foundation, a charitable institution headed by Pizza Hut's endorser, Diether Ocampo.

Every P25 peso donation at any Pizza Hut restaurant entitles donors to a "Fight World Hunger" pin. Donations are also accepted at Taco Bell branches at Gateway Mall, SM Southmall, Trinoma and E. Rodriguez

Visit www.pizzahut.com.ph or www.tacobell.com.ph.





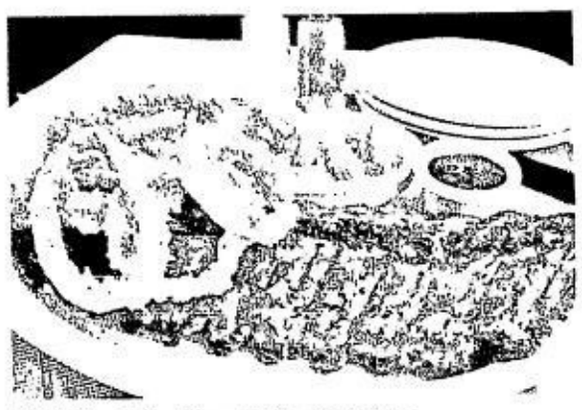
CHEESY Bacon Cheeseburger

Not one, not two but 27 new dishes on the menu

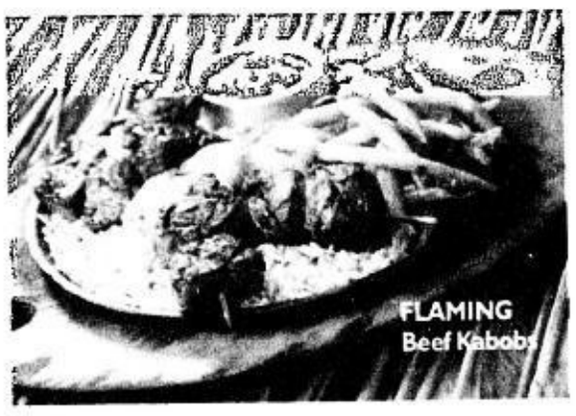
FUN, HIP AND CASUAL-DINING RESTAURANT TGIFriday's is this month rolling out 27 lip-smacking dishes drawn from an international menu-enhancement program the company is putting in place worldwide.

On the new menu is Flaming Beef Kabobs, lean cuts of steak char-grilled just right so every juicy bite melts in your mouth and served on a bed of wild coconut rice and fresh mango-chili salsa for dipping.

The Sizzling Chicken & Shrimp, sauteed chicken breast with onions, peppers and zesty shrimp in a Roma tomato-basil salsa, is served over sizzling Colby and Monterey Jack cheeses with a side of cheddar-cheese mashed potatoes.



JACK Daniel's Glazed Ribs & Shrimp



FLAMING Beef Kabobs

The Chicken Club Sandwich consists of layers of ham, char-grilled chicken breast, American cheese and crisp bacon piled double high between three slices of honey wheat bread with fresh lettuce, tomato and mayonnaise.

TGIFriday's is now serving these three plus 24 other new dishes at all TGIFriday's restaurants located at Alabang Town Center, Glorietta 3, Tomas Morato, Robinson's Manila, Robinson's Galleria, Bonifacio High Street, Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall and soon at Trinoma.

PARTICIPANTS at the CCA course will learn theories and methods in cooking and baking.

Turn a hobby into a business

COOKING ENTHUSIASTS can turn their passion into an income-generating venture with the help of the Center for Culinary Arts, Manila (CCA, Manila).

The leading culinary school offers "Shop, Cook/Bake and Earn," a two-day course that incorporates entrepreneurship. It will be offered at CCA, Manila's satellite school on the second floor of Farmers Market in Araneta Center, Quezon City.

The program will teach participants the theories and methods in cooking/baking, and how to start a business.

Students will learn purchasing, measuring and costing of ingredients. The second day will focus on actual production, packaging, pricing, and shelf life and its monitoring.

Students will learn how to prepare, mix, bake and package the items properly; calculate the selling price, and understand the concept of staling and the use of food preservatives.

The school's location inside a market where all the necessary ingredients are purchased is considered as one of its advantages.

The faculty team consists of chef instructors who are experts in baking. Call 4376058 or 4377456; e-mail marketing_farmers@cca-manila. com or visit www.cca-manila.com.

Reinventing . . .

From page E1

Still dissatisfied, the Ocampos decided to "import" some of the best *empanada* makers to churn out these delicious neon-orange crunchies.

So did they come up with the real McCoy? "*Wen apo*!" says Carlo's uncle Bongbong and aunt Imee.

Both swear it is the real deal as they held on to their *empanadas* on that fun-filled day when we three Ilocanos came together to experiment on our most beloved *gulay* recipes.

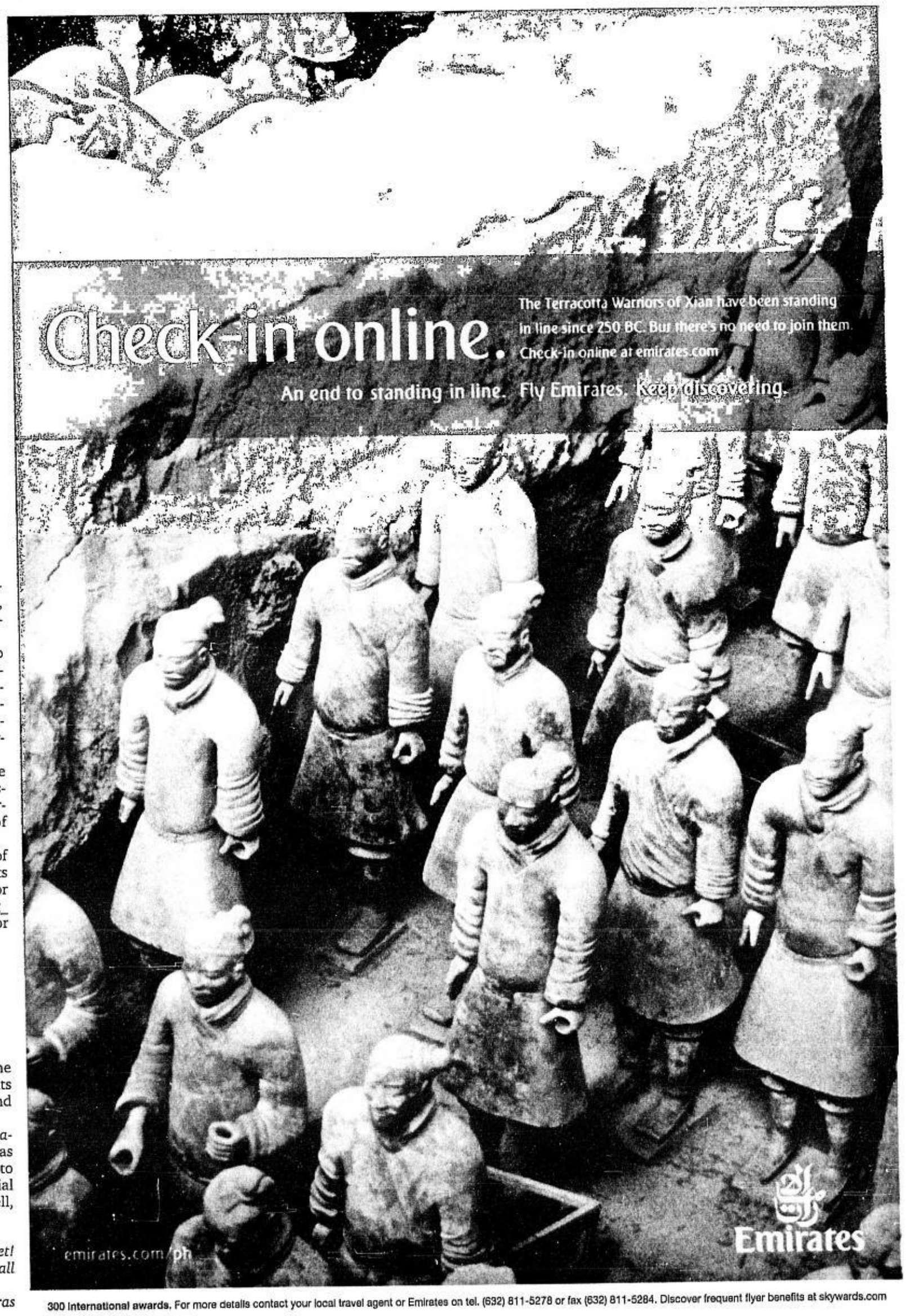
I must say I agree! Yummy!

To their repertoire, the Ocampos added new variants like the Mexican, Argentine and Sweet N Spicy.

"They are all still *longganisa*-based but the Mexican has cheese, onions and tomato sauce; Argentine has special spices; and Sweet N Spicy, well, speaks for itself."

Taco Ilocano is at Market! Market! and Glorietta 4. Call 0917-5355302 for catering.

E-mail the author at raspiras @inquirer.com.ph



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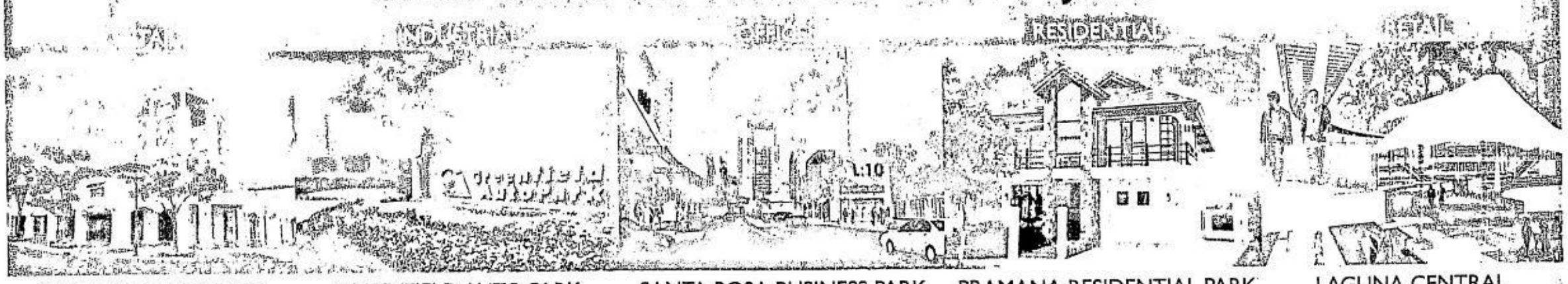
Starting today, all roads lead to Greenfield City. Go north, the green line.

GREENFIELD CITY SIGNATURE PROJECTS:



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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

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or email us at entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Still not in the clear

By Marinel R. Cruz

NOW THAT THE CONTROversy concerning her career moves has ebbed, Angel Locsin felt there was need to clear the air as she faced the entertainment press last week.

The actress arrived at the dining hall of ABS-CBN on Friday night, along with her talent manager Becky Aguila and Aguila's lawyer Joji Alonso.

Angel asked the writers to "help me make people understand, to finally put an end to the issue.

"What I'm going through is not easy. I'm only 22, *pero lumalaban po ako,*" a teary-eyed Angel added. "I hope to have the chance to talk to them. *Pero ako ang unang lalapit.* I will talk with them in private."

She was referring to her former bosses in GMA 7, senior vice president for entertainment Wilma Galvante and Artist Center head Ida Henares, who publicly expressed their disappointment over Angel's decision to transfer to rival channel ABS-CBN.

"You have no idea how I feel. It pains me to know that they are hurting. I treated them like my own parents," Angel said. "I'm just waiting for the right time to sit down with them. I don't want them to think that I'm using them for publicity purposes."

On Aug. 11, Angel signed a two-year exclusive contract with the Kapamilya network. She is being teamed up with Piolo Pascual and would soon be seen in the TV series titled "Lobo."

Do you still have "live" contracts with GMA 7?

Yes. The network still gets a share of the tal-

STILL/ F3

ANGEL LOCSIN meets the press last week and begs for help "to make people understand." But she seems to be having trouble making even her own manager see whatever it is she wants to put across. ROMY HOMILLADA

Rhian plays a Mega role

She is paired with Mark Herras in 'My Only Love' remake

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

RHIAN RAMOS IS SUPPOSED TO BE taking a break from show biz.

But she found herself accepting a major—make that mega—role in a new afternoon soap on GMA 7.

The 16-year-old Rhian is the new partner of Mark Herras in the remake of "My Only Love," the 1982 Sharon Cuneta-Gabby Concepcion starrer, according to GMA Artist Center.

The series, which started taping on

RHIAN/ F4

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WEEKEND BOX OFFICE

Top 10 movies at the North American box office for the three-day weekend beginning October 19

30 Days of Night, Columbia Pictures

TW	LW	Title	Total gross	WR
1	☆	30 Days of Night	$ 16.0 mln	1
2	1	Why Did I Get Married?	$ 12.1 mln	2
3	2	The Game Plan	$ 8.1 mln	4
4	4	Michael Clayton	$ 7.1 mln	3
5	☆	Gone Baby Gone	$ 6.0 mln	1
6	☆	The Comebacks	$ 5.9 mln	1
7	3	We Own the Night	$ 5.5 mln	2
8	☆	The Nightmare Before Christmas 3-D	$ 5.1 mln	1
9	☆	Rendition	$ 4.2 mln	1
10	5	The Heartbreak Kid	$ 3.9 mln	3

TW This week *LW Last week* ☆ *New release* *WR Weeks in release*

Based on studio estimates compiled on Sunday REUTERS

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www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

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GALLERIA

Ticket Price: P80 / P90 / P100 / P120 / P130 / indie Sine \ 130 632-0116

1 STARDUST • THX
2 BUTTERFLY on a WHEEL
3 MANILA PRIDE FEST
4 UNREST
5 RENDITION
6 HIGHLANDER MR. WOODCOCK
7 RESIDENT EVIL 3
8 KNOCKED UP
9 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
10 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT

ERMITA

Ticket Price: P80 / P100 / P120

1 RENDITION
2 KNOCKED UP STARDUST
3 UNREST
4 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
5 BUTTERFLY on a WHEEL
6 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
7 RESIDENT EVIL 3

METRO EAST

Ticket Price: P80 / P90 / P100 / P120 662-3100 / 662-3106

1 KNOCKED UP
2 THE SEEKER: DARK is RISING
3 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
4 UNREST
5 BUTTERFLY on a WHEEL
6 MR. WOODCOCK HIGHLANDER
7 RESIDENT EVIL 3
8 RENDITION

NOVALICHES

Ticket Price: P80 / P90 / P100 / P120 / P130 / P150 / P170 / P200 / P220-30

1 BUTTERFLY on a WHEEL
2 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
3 KNOCKED UP
4 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT

PIONEER

Ticket Price: P100 / P110 / P120 687-5374

1 RENDITION
2 UNREST
3 BUTTERFLY on a WHEEL
4 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising

STA. ROSA

Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (049) 837-0907

1 NO RESERVATIONS
2 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
3 SHOOT 'EM UP
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

LIPA

Ticket Price: P90 (043) 757-3664 / (043) 312-5870

1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 KNOCKED UP
3 RESIDENT EVIL 3
4 DECEMBER BOYS

DASMARINAS

Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (046) 416-3332

1 NO RESERVATIONS
2 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 SHOOT 'EM UP

IMUS

(046) 875-3838 / (046) 471-8188

1 THE SEEKER: DARK is RISING
2 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
3 HIGHLANDER
4 BUTTERFLY on a WHEEL

ANGELES

Ticket Price: P90 (045) 892-2348

1 RETRIBUTION
2 STARDUST
3 RESIDENT EVIL 3
4 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT

TARLAC

1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 THREE
3 KNOCKED UP

STARMILLS

(02) 374-1021

1 WEDDING DAZE
2 STARDUST
3 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
4 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
5 RETRIBUTION
6 RESIDENT EVIL 3

BACOLOD

Ticket Price: P70 (034) 441-0459

1 RESIDENT EVIL 3
2 WEDDING DAE
3 indieSine: STILL LIFE
4 STARDUST
5 KNOCKED UP
6 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT

ILOILO

Ticket Price: P70.50 / P80.50 (033) 338-0070

1 RESIDENT EVIL 3
2 RETRIBUTION
3 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
4 KNOCKED UP
5 DECEMBER BOYS
6 NO RESERVATIONS

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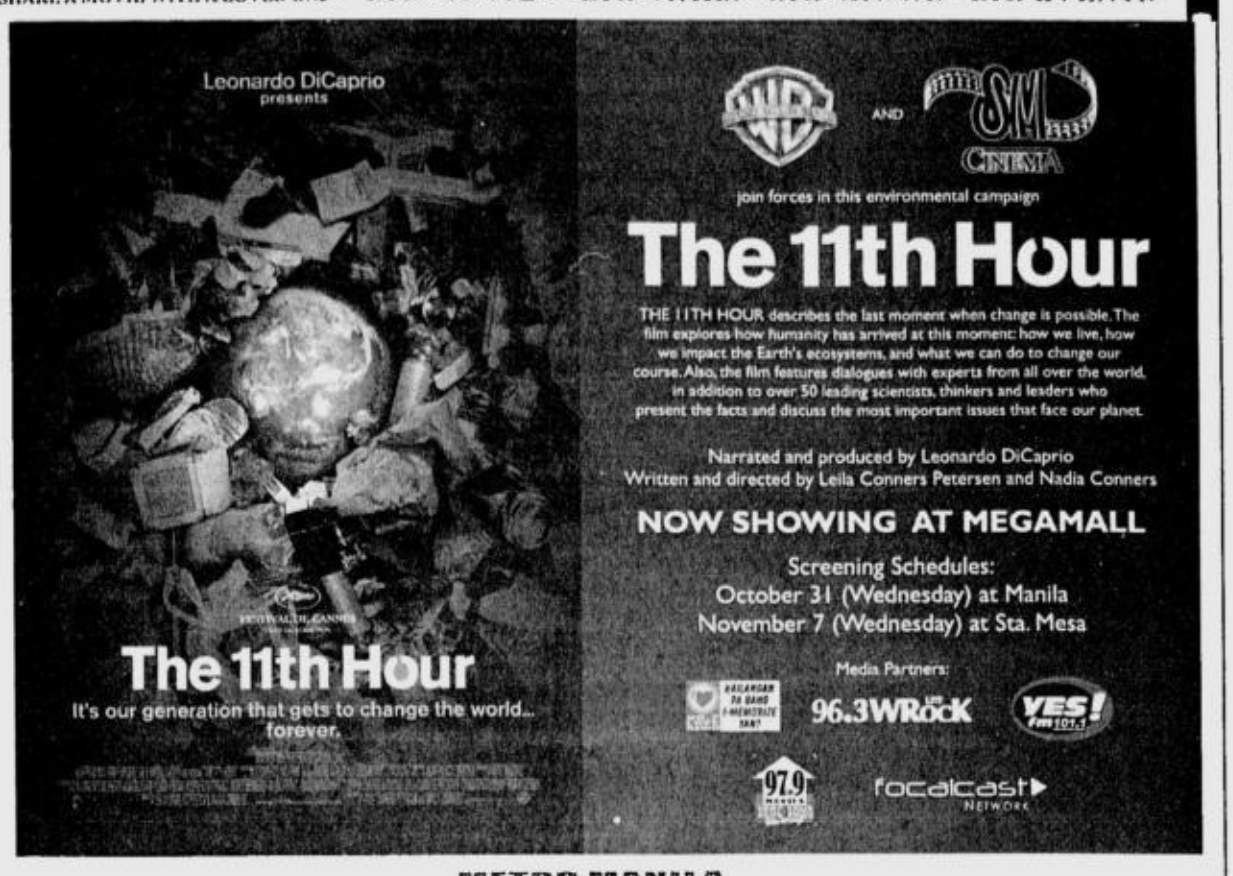

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1 RENDITION
2 STARDUST
3 THE SEEKER THE DARK IS RISING
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3
5 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
6 UNREST

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APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

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CINEMA 1
RENDITION

CINEMA 2
BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL

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SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452

1 STARDUST
2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
3 NO RESERVATIONS
4 UNREST
5 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
6 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
7 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
8 MR. WOODCOCK
9 HIGHLANDER V
10 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
11 RENDITION
12 KUNG FU FIGHTER

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901

1 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
2 11TH HOUR
3 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3
5 MR. WOODCOCK
6 RENDITION
7 KUNG FU FIGHTER
8 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK LARRY
9 STARDUST
10 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
11 UNREST
12 ROGUE ASSASSIN

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749

1 RENDITION
2 MR. WOODCOCK
3 HIGHLANDER V
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3
5 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
6 STARDUST
7 THE SEEKER THE DARK IS RISING
8 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
9 KUNG FU FIGHTER
10 ROGUE ASSASSIN
11 RETRIBUTION
12 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416

1 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
2 HIGHLANDER V
3 THE SEEKER THE DARK IS RISING
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3
5 RENDITION
6 KUNG FU FIGHTER
7 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
8 STARDUST
9 ROGUE ASSASSIN
10 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488

1 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
3 UNREST
4 RENDITION
5 THE SEEKER THE DARK IS RISING
6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888

1 RENDITION
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 UNREST
4 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
5 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
6 RESIDENT EVIL 3
7 STARDUST
8 HIGHLANDER V
9 RETRIBUTION

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055

1 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
2 HIGHLANDER V
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 THE SEEKER THE DARK IS RISING

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240

1 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
3 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
5 RENDITION
6 RESERVED
7 STARDUST
8 HIGHLANDER V
9 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
10 KUNG FU FIGHTER
11 RETRIBUTION
12 UNREST

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04

1 THE SEEKER THE DARK IS RISING
2 RISE
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 NO RESERVATIONS

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917

1 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
2 HIGHLANDER V
3 MR. WOODCOCK
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975

1 HIGHLANDER V
2 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
3 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM CENTERstage CINEMA

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SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868

1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 STARDUST
3 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
4 RETRIBUTION
5 RESIDENT EVIL 3
6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
7 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
8 RENDITION

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45

1 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
3 STARDUST
4 RETRIBUTION
5 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
6 EVENING

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17

1 SHOOT EM' UP
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 NO RESERVATIONS
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3

LUZON

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04

1 RESIDENT EVIL 3
2 DECEMBER BOYS
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 THE HOST

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85

1 RESIDENT EVIL 3
2 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
3 RETRIBUTION
4 WEDDING DAZE
5 EVENING
6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM CITY LIPA (043) 784-0187

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 RESIDENT EVIL 3
4 DECEMBER BOYS

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80

1 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 DECEMBER BOYS
4 SHOOT EM' UP

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39

1 RESIDENT EVIL 3
2 THE SEEKER THE DARK IS RISING
3 STARDUST
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160

1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 THE SEEKER THE DARK IS RISING
3 HIGHLANDER V
4 MR. WOODCOCK

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5349811

1 NO RESERVATIONS
2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998

1 SHOOT EM' UP
2 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
3 NO RESERVATIONS
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
5 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
6 STARDUST

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884

1 STARDUST
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 RETRIBUTION
4 EVENING

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422

1 NO RESERVATIONS
2 RESERVED
3 RETRIBUTION
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3
5 ROGUE ASSASSIN
6 DECEMBER BOYS
7 RESERVED
8 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876

1 STARDUST
2 DECEMBER BOYS
3 SHOOT EM' UP
4 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
5 RETRIBUTION
6 EVENING
7 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
8 THE SEEKER THE DARK IS RISING

SM CITY DAGOLOD (034) 708 1010

1 RESIDENT EVIL 3
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 WEDDING DAZE
4 STARDUST

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

Still not in the clear

From page F1

ent fees from product endorsement deals that it negotiated for me.

Don't you feel pressured to constantly prove to people that moving to ABS-CBN was the right choice?

I recently had a serious talk with the staff members of "Lobo" because I think they are feeling the pressure more than I am. I told them, "let's not work to compete. Let's aim to entertain the viewers."

To improve my craft is one of the reasons I transferred to ABS-CBN...I want to be known as a good actress.

How is your relationship with Becky now? Has the situation improved?

Hindi ako plastic. I will not deny that my manager and I have issues, but we're trying to work things out.

What can you say about the case of Becky's other ward, Jennylyn Mercado, whose work in GMA 7 reportedly got affected by your rift with the network?

Jen and I aren't close, but we're okay. I can't say she's an innocent victim of this controversy. She also has to prove her worth. I think it's unfair to blame me for what's happening to her. *Labas ako do'n.* I'm willing to help her in any way I can.

What have you learned from this experience?

I've learned that nothing is permanent in this world, that not all of the people you consider friends will be there for you during tough times.

Do you think the roles you're getting in ABS-CBN are better than the roles you had in GMA 7?

My bosses in GMA 7 gave me tough roles because they believed I was physically fit to do them. Here in ABS-CBN, I'm given the chance to improve my craft in the drama department. The character I played in "Maalaala Mo Kaya" was my first crack at drama.

Don't you regret turning down the offer to play Marimar, especially now that the show is doing well?

I guess it's just not for me. It was meant for Marian (Rivera). I'm very proud of her.

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 CINE EUROPA
2 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL (PG-13) 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
3 RENDITION (SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING) 12:45, 3:40, 6:35, 9:30
4 STARDUST MTRCB: GP 1:00, 3:50, 6:40, 9:30
PREMIERE THEATRE THE SEEKER MTRCB: GP 2:30, 5:00, 7:20

Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

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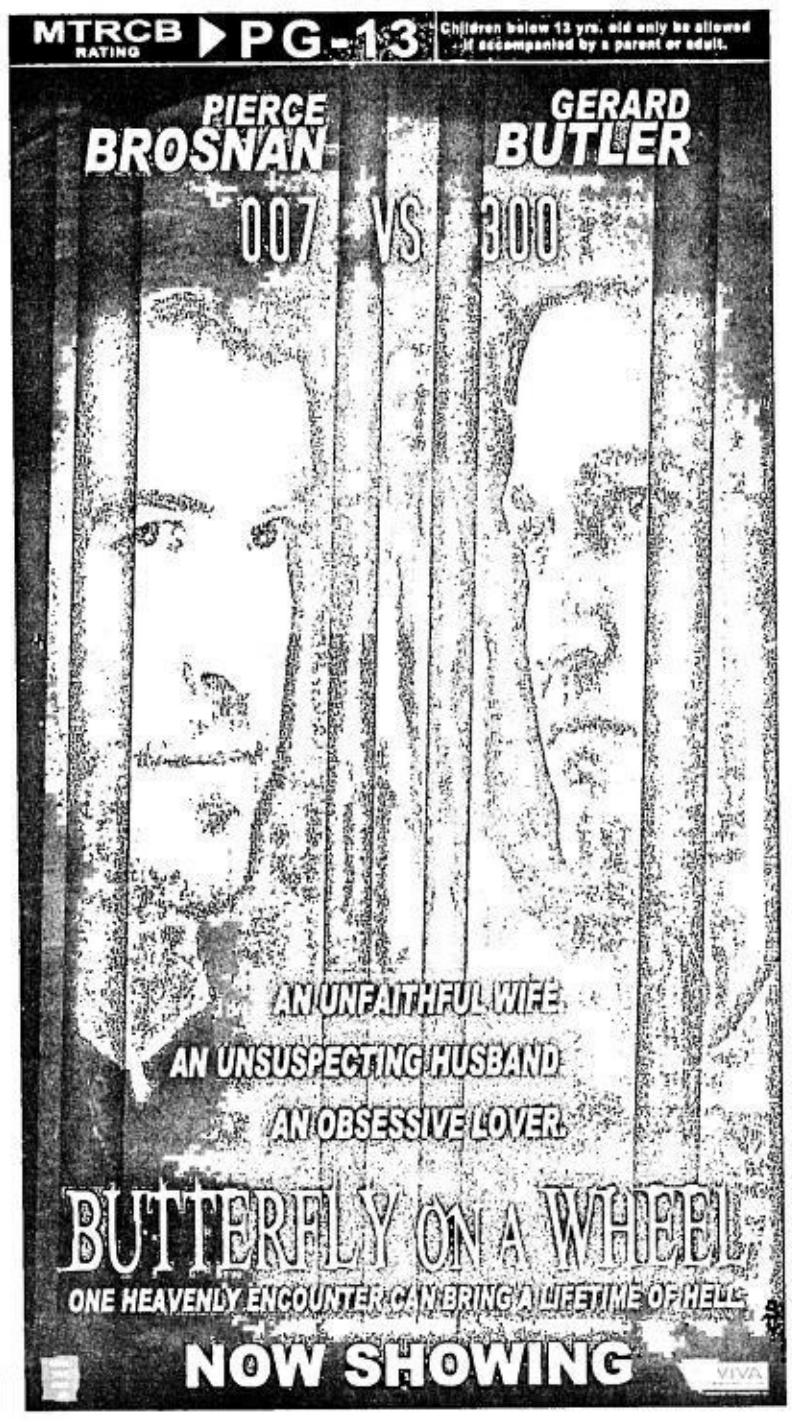

AT THE CINEMAS

IFX

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Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729-7777

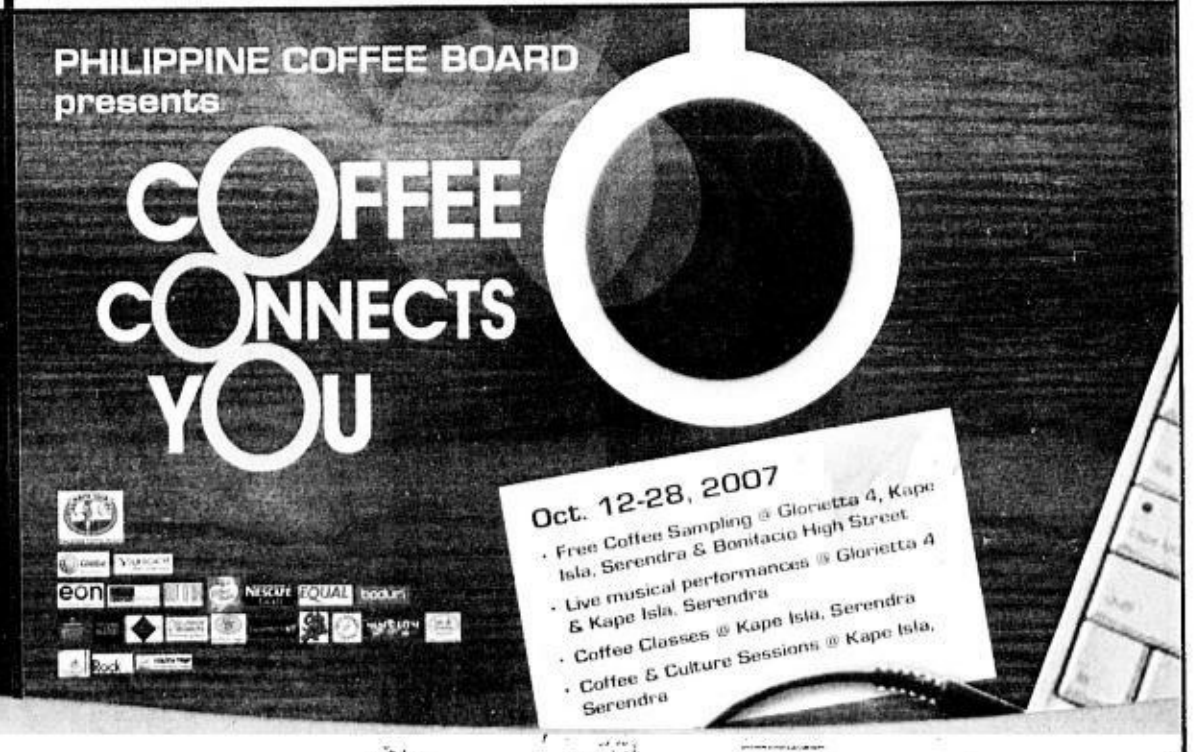
GLORIETTA 1	1 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL	2 RENDITION	3 THE UNREST	4 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
GLORIETTA 4	1 STARDUST	2 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING	3 THX BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL (GUARANTEED SEATS)	
	4 MR. WOODCOCK	5 PERFUME: THE STORY OF A MURDERER	6 RENDITION	7 KNOCKED UP
GREENBELT 1	1 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL	2 RENDITION		
GREENBELT 3	1 THX BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL (GUARANTEED SEATS)	2 THX RENDITION (GUARANTEED SEATS)		
	3 KNOCKED UP (GUARANTEED SEATS)	4 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING (GUARANTEED SEATS)	5 STARDUST (GUARANTEED SEATS)	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX RENDITION	2 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL		
	3 STARDUST	4 THE 11TH HOUR	5 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 DECEMBER BOYS	2 SHOOT 'EM UP	3 EVENING	4 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
MARKET! MARKET!	1 RENDITION	2 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT		
	3 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING	4 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL	5 THE UNREST	
TRINOMA • THX Certified • All-Digital Sound • All-Stadium Seating • Computerized Ticketing System • Recliner Seats	1 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT	2 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL	3 THE UNREST (GUARANTEED SEATS)	4 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING (GUARANTEED SEATS)
	5 STARDUST	6 KNOCKED UP	7 THX RENDITION (GUARANTEED SEATS)	

AT THE MALLS

Ayala

CONCIERGE HOTLINE NUMBERS:
Glorietta - 752 7272
Greenbelt - 757 4853 to 54
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; 772 1860
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc. 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519
TriNoma - 901 3000

Glorietta	Urban Beats: Superbands at Glorietta featuring Kastigo and Kjwa October 24; 6pm to 7;30pm; Glorietta Activity Center
Greenbelt	Trick or Treat at Greenbelt 3 Park October 25 to 28 and 31
Alabang Town Center	Automatic Center October 15 to 26; Activity Center
Ayala Center Cebu	Kiddo Halloween Event October 27; Activity Center and On Stage (Cinema 1)
Market! Market!	Dancing Stage Supernova Challenge 2007 Grand Finals October 26; Activity Center
Greenbelt Onstage	Repertory Philippines presents Disney's CINDERELLA Kids August - December 2007 For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710 or visit www.repertory-philippines.com
Ayala Museum	HYBRIDITY: Mark Lewis Higgins September 18 to October 28, 2007; Ground Floor For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
TriNoma	Sesame Street Party October 28; Activity Center



glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! TriNoma

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MOVIE GUIDE
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SHANG CINEPLEX
5th floor Shangri-la Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City Telephone 633.2327 / 6332851 loc. 171
1 CINE EUROPA
2 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
3 RENDITION
4 STURDUST
PREMIERE
THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING

CINEMA 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING
2 RENDITION
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 UNREST

Starmall
EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266160
3 HIGHLANDER -V
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) RENDITION
5

metropolis star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 6433994
1 MR. WOODCOCK
2 HIGHLANDER -V
3 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

THEATRES
1 KUNG FU FIGHTER
2 DECEMBER BOYS
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-6271
1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 RISE
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 RENDITION
2 RESIDENT EVIL
3 UNREST
4 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING
5 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
6 KNOCKED UP
7 STURDUST
8 NO RESERVATION
9 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
10 KUNG FU FIGHTER

Blue Wave MARQUINTON
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sta. Niña, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING
2 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
3 RENDITION
4 RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 UNREST
5 RENDITION

MARKETPLACE
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1 PLEASE CALL
2 PLEASE CALL
3 PLEASE CALL
4 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
2 RENDITION
3 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
2 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
2 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
3 STURDUST
4 RETRIBUTION

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 I KNOW WHO KILL ME
2 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 RENDITION
2 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
3 STURDUST
4 KNOCKED UP / THE SEEKER

CINEMA 2000 Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
2 KUNG FU FIGHTER
3 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
4

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 DON'T LOOK BACK
2 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
3 KUNG FU FIGHTER

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
2 HAIRSPRAY
3 KUNG FU FIGHTER
4 KNOCKED UP

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 NO RESERVATION / DECEMBER BOYS
2 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
3 KNOCKED UP

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 SKINWALKERS
2 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 DAY WATCH
2 PLEASE CALL

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 PLEASE CALL
2 MASARAP UNANG KAGAT
3 BATANG MAGDALENA
4 PLEASE CALL

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
2 MASARAP UNANG KAGAT
3 KUNG FU FIGHTER
4 THREE
5 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
2 KNOCKED UP
3 DECEMBER BOYS
4 RESIDENT EVIL

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 SIYA AY NAHDADALAGA
2 BEDROOM SECRET

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Halloween at Eastwood City

8:00 PM
Magic 89.9's Witching Hour
feat. Kjwan, Pupil, Moonstar88, Join D Club & Lala

October 27, 2007
1:00 PM
Scaredy Cats & Dogs
Halloween costume contest & Trick or Treat with pets

October 28, 2007
1:00 PM
Perfect Match
Search for the Best Pair in Halloween Costume

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

THE SEEKER	KNOCKED UP
3:35, 6:05	8:25, 11:10
GP	R-18

RENDITION
1:40, 4:35, 7:30, 10:35

STARDUST
2:15, 5:05, 7:55, 10:40
G

BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00
PG-13

The Members
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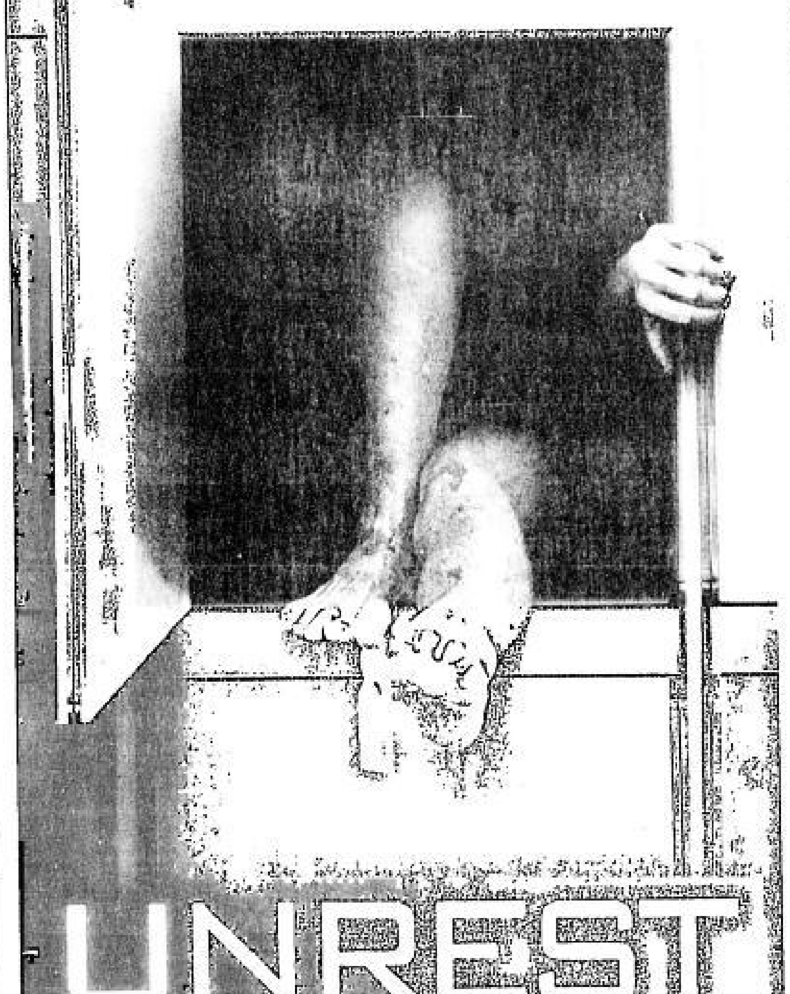
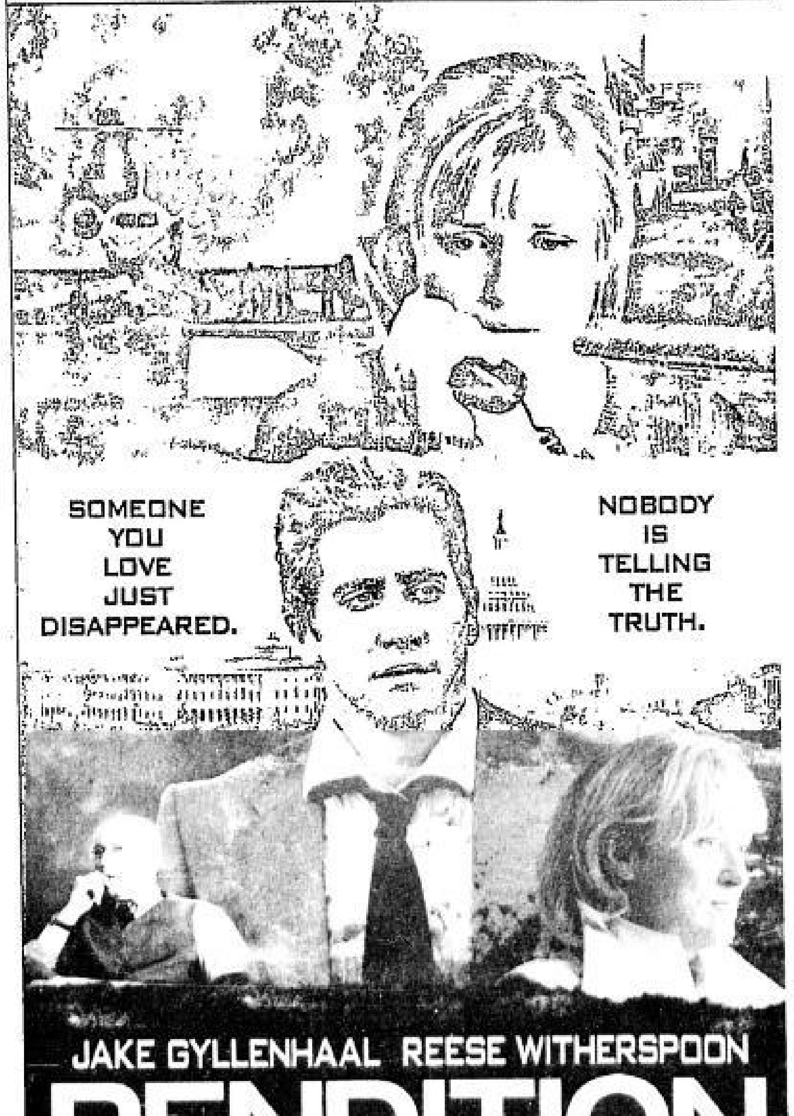


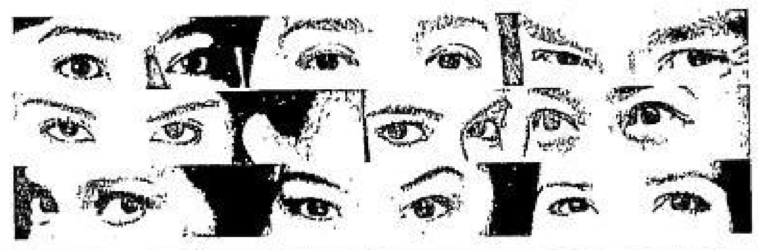
UNREST

MTRCB R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE
NOW SHOWING
WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM...
COULD HAPPEN TO YOU!



SOMEONE YOU LOVE JUST DISAPPEARED.
NOBODY IS TELLING THE TRUTH.
JAKE GYLLENHAAL REESE WITHERSPOON
RENDITION

SEEING STARS
Huge treats await 3 readers who can guess which celebs these eyes belong to. Tomorrow, in Living Stars.



Rhian plays a Mega role

From page F1

Wednesday, is expected to be launched next month as possible replacement for "Kung Mahawi Man ang Ulap," another remake. It stars Bianca King, Stef Prescott, Alfred Vargas and Rita Avila, under the direction of Louie Ignacio.

Rhian, who also hosts the Animax show "Mad, Mad Fun," is "overwhelmed" by her new assignment. But she promises to continue her high-school studies—the main reason she took a breather from the biz earlier this year.

"It's written in my contract that education is my priority," says Rhian, who is currently enrolled as a junior in a home-study program. "I want to take a creative course like directing or fashion design in college."

The young actress is thrilled that Robin Padilla and Sharon Cuneta expressed interest in working with her in future projects.

"It would be a dream-come-true," she says. "It's so flattering. When I retire from acting, I'd have a great list of co-stars."

While Rhian met Sharon at the premiere of GMA Films' "Ouija," she passed off the chance to be formally introduced to Robin.

At that time, she recalls, taping for her show "Lupin" was held in the same compound as Robin's program "Asian Treasures."

"I saw him from a distance. I didn't have the guts to say hi to him," she recounts. "Others may think I was rude for not saying hello. But I'm just shy. I get easily star-struck."

Rhian is aware she is often misunderstood. "I realize you can't please everyone. Some will understand you; others simply won't."

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UNREST 12:30 / 2:45 / 5:00 / 7:15 / 9:30	THE SEEKER: DARK IS RISING 12:15 / 2:35 / 4:55 / 7:15 / 9:50	BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL 2:00 / 4:30 / 7:00 / 9:30	
RENDITION 12:30 / 3:30 / 6:30 / 9:30	KNOCKED UP 6:30 / 9:20	APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT 1:40 / 4:20 / 7:00 / 9:40	
MR WOODCOCK 1:50 / 4:10	RESIDENT EVIL : EXTINCTION 12:50 / 3:10 / 5:30 / 7:50 / 9:50	STARDUST 12:35 / 3:30 / 6:25 / 9:20	BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00

AliMALL CINEMAS
DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

THE SEEKER: DARK IS RISING
12:10/85 / 1:00 / 3:30 / 5:50 / 8:10

UNREST
40 / 3:55 / 6:1_ 8:25

ARANETA COLISEUM
www.aranetacoliseum.com

PBA GAMES
October 26, Friday
4:35 Coca Cola vs Alaska 7:20 Purefoods vs Magnolia

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October 26 - November 4, 2007

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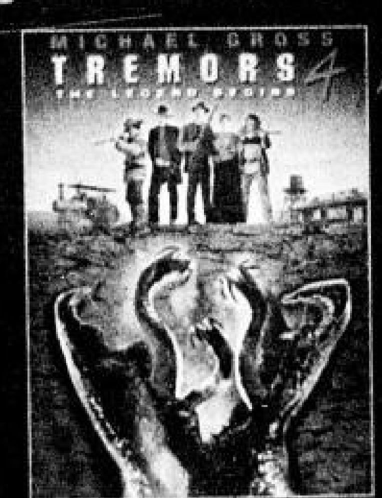

DEAD SILENCE
From the writers and director of international phenomenon SAW comes an experience on the razor's edge of fear. A widower returns to his hometown to search for answers to his wife's murder, which may be linked to the ghost of the murdered ventriloquist.
Screening Schedules
12:30pm, 5:30pm, 10:30pm

TREMORS 4 THE LEGEND BEGINS
The worms are back but this time in a prequel, set in 1889 Nevada as silver mines inspector Hiram Gummer, the great-grandfather of Burt Gummer, arrives in the small settlement of Rejection Valley and faces off against the so-called graboid worm monsters devouring the local inhabitants.
Screening Schedules
3:00pm, 8:00pm

OPENS OCTOBER 27 JOHN CARPENTER's "VILLAGE OF THE DAMMED" & "THE THING"

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More minus than plus points

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

DOES LINO CAYETANO HAVE WHAT IT takes to become a good film director? To find out, we caught his first feature "I Have Fallen for You," starring teen faves Kim Chiu and Gerald Anderson. The evidence, pro and con:

The film started out well, with the improbable but droll situation of two young people, played by Kim and Gerald, with the same name: Alex Reyes.

At first, Kim finds the situation irritating, especially because Gerald's family is much better off than hers. Later, however, she warms up to Gerald and they team up to compete in a cycling competition.

The movie's basic premise, that two very different young people can help each other find solutions to their contrasting sets of problems, is an upbeat and inspiring one, especially for empathetic young viewers.

We also like the production's "lived-in" texture and attention to detail, which indicates that the filmmaker has bothered to make his material real, and to think things through.

After a while, however, the acting insufficiencies of the movie's two leads weigh the production down. Kim and Gerald work hard to entertain us, but they are awkward about it.

Kim's basic problem is her inability to relax, to go beyond surface energy and enthusiasm. She tries so hard as a performer that, when she smiles, it comes off as a grimace. And her speaking voice needs a lot of lessons to modulate.

As for Gerald, he's boy-next-door appealing, and he too works hard on his role. But his problem is the vagueness of his character, as written.

He's supposed to be at loose ends because his parents' long-distance marriage is troubled. An additional problem surfaces when it's revealed that his mom and Kim's dad used to be romantically linked when they were in college.

As a result of all these pressures, Gerald is alternately indolent and anguished, and we end up sharing Kim's impatience with him.

As an actor, Gerald needs to work on his articulation, which is occasionally stilted. He should also stop relying on his good looks and fresh appeal to get passing marks as a thespian, because his roles are bound to get more complex as his career progresses.

Despite the movie's flaws, it is passably entertaining, until it hits two more major sticking points:

The first is the cycling race that's made such a big deal of in the story: Viewers are sorely disappointed when the two leads are shown "conditioning" themselves very poorly for it. And, when the actual race is staged, it's too small and phlegmatic to be believed.

Another major problem is the movie's belated and heavy-handed focus on the romantic back story involving the two young leads' parents. This focus distracts from the film's central teen love story, especially because it's largely played out toward the movie's end, when we should be concentrating on the two young protagonists and how they finally turn out.

The saving grace here is the focused and felt performance of Lotlot de Leon as Kim's mother. Her portrayal is even more impressive because it has been crafted under such confusing circumstances.

What about director Lito Cayetano? As these notes indicate, his movie has more minus than plus points, so it's reevaluation time for him, if he *really* wants to make good movies.

The lessons he can learn from his first feature film may include: working with really good actors, making their character curves clear and believable, emphasizing credibility in staging specialized scenes like bike races, positioning scenes in a more focused fashion, and constantly asking himself the key question: "Whose story is this?"

If he works hard to learn these lessons, his second feature should be better, and the local movie industry shall have gained another competent director whose films can delight, inspire and move us in the years to come.

CHEER FACTOR

LOS ANGELES—MARIE OSMOND FAINTED onstage during ABC TV's live broadcast Monday of "Dancing with the Stars" but quickly recovered. Osmond and her partner, dancer Jonathan Roberts, had just finished a samba when she suddenly toppled. Said host Tom Bergeron: "The first words out of her mouth were, 'Oh, crap.'" *AP*

DID YOU KNOW...

DIRECTOR ANG Lee's controversial erotic thriller and winner of the Golden Lion at the Venice Film Festival, "Lust, Caution," will hold special previews in its R-18 uncut version starting tomorrow, Oct. 26, in selected cinemas in Metro Manila. Critic Rober Ebert applauds this movie, saying, "There is not a frame that is not beautiful."

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CINEMA 5 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL 10:30, 12:30, 3:00 5:30, 8:00, 10:30 PG-13
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM	October 25, 2007	Ogie Alcasid	8:00 PM
	October 27, 2007	Jonathan Badon	8:00 PM
	November 9&10, 16&17, 23&24	"Into the Woods" musical	8:00 PM
	November 15, 2007	Retrospect	8:00 PM
TEATRINO PROMENADE GREENHILLS	Oct. 31 / Nov 7,14,15 21,22, 28 &29	Cerrudo Classico	8:00 PM
	October 26, 2007	John Lesaca	8:00 PM
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KNOCKED UP R18 1:10,3:50	UNREST R13 1:30,3:40,5:50, 8:00,10:10	RENDITION 12:30,3:00,5:30, 8:00,10:30

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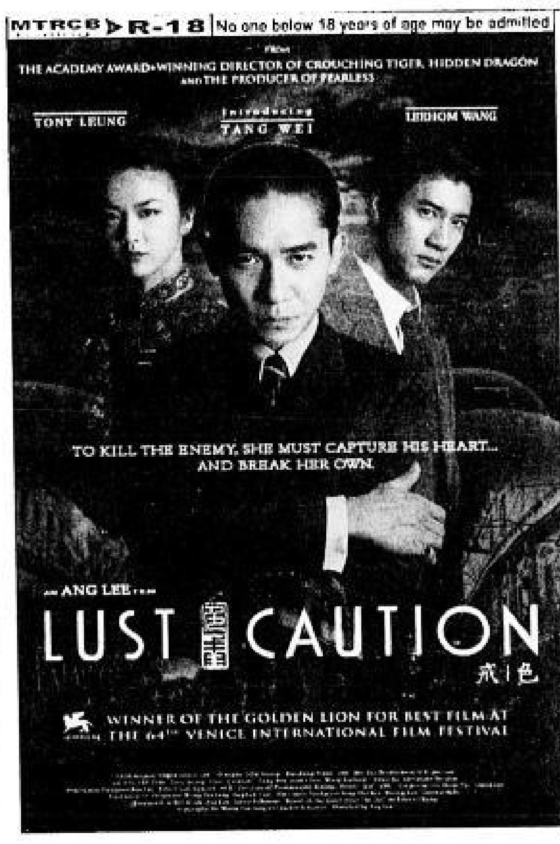
MTRCB R-18 No one below 18 years of age may be admitted



Strictly For Adults

From Ang Lee, the award-winning director of "Brokeback Mountain" and "Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon"

A startling, erotic espionage thriller to be shown in its original **UNCUT** *version.*

The film is about a young secret agent (Tang Wei) who was assigned to seduce a high-ranking intelligence official (Tony Leung) of the puppet government in WWII Shanghai. As she plunged deeper into the dangerous game of lust, betrayal and espionage, she slowly realized that her relationship with her prey had evolved into something she did not expect.

"A sumptuous, masterful piece of cinema... The torrid, full nudity scenes... set the screen ablaze."
Ruben Nepales, *Philippine Daily Inquirer*

"a tragic melodrama... This time love is a performance, a trap... an illusion."
Dennis Lim, *New York Times*

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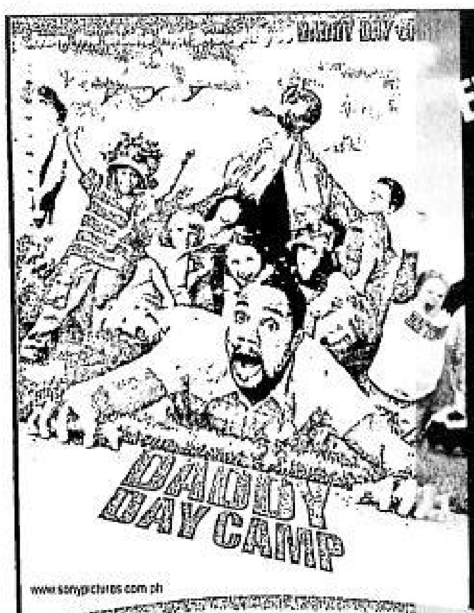

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Roger Ebert, CHICAGO SUN TIMES
"SENSUOUS."
Lisa Schwarzbaum, ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY
MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18 (R-18)
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Ayala Malls CINEMAS
FRIGHT FEST
WATCH 10 FILMS TO DIE FOR FROM THE MASTERS OF THE MACABRE
October 26 – November 4, 2007 • Glorietta 4 Cinemas

SCREENING TIME	OCTOBER 26 (Friday)	OCTOBER 27 (Saturday)	OCTOBER 28 (Sunday)	OCTOBER 29 (Monday)
12:30	Tremors 4	John Carpenter's Village of the Dammed	Alfred Hitchcock: The Birds	Wes Craven's The Serpent & The Rainbow
3:00	Dead Silence	John Carpenter's The Thing	Alfred Hitchcock: Rear Window	Wes Craven's Vampire in Brooklyn
5:30	Tremors 4	John Carpenter's Village of the Dammed	Alfred Hitchcock: The Birds	Wes Craven's The Serpent & The Rainbow
8:00	Dead Silence	John Carpenter's The Thing	Alfred Hitchcock: Rear Window	Wes Craven's Vampire in Brooklyn
10:30	Tremors 4	John Carpenter's Village of the Dammed	Alfred Hitchcock: The Birds	Wes Craven's The Serpent & The Rainbow

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Paul Anka at 66: Too good to stop singing

LOS ANGELES—PAUL ANKA has written an inordinate amount of pop music classics, cranking out hit songs like "My Way" for Frank Sinatra, "It Doesn't Matter Anymore" for Buddy Holly, saving "Lonely Boy," "Put Your Head on My Shoulder," "Puppy Love" and others for himself—not bad for a guy who arrived on the music scene in 1956 with a not-quite-as-catchy tune about a place called Blaauwildebeestefontein.

Anka, who is marking his 50th year in show business, actually tried to break into the business 51 years ago.

"A lot of people don't know I came to LA the prior year to visit an uncle," the 66-year-old Canadian-born singer-songwriter recalled recently as he was putting the finishing touches on his anniversary album, the just-released "Classic Songs My Way."

A failure at 15

Still a high school student, Anka had brought with him the book "Prester John" (required reading for Canadians because it was written by the country's legendary governor general, John Buchan).

"The premise of it took place in Africa," he recalled. "There was a town called Blaauwildebeestefontein. I loved the title, so I hitchhiked to Culver City and made a record of it."

The result?

"I was a failure at 15," Anka laughed.

Fortunately for him, Sinatra, Johnny Carson (Anka wrote Carson's "The Tonight Show" theme) and pop music in general, he headed to New York the following year. This time he brought with him a more traditional song about a 16-year-old's unrequited love for an older woman.

"Diana" became a No. 1 hit and turned a short kid whose voice had not quite matured into an overnight teen idol.

Proud of achievements

Fifty years later, he is still short but the voice is deeper and richer and the '50s-style pop star pompadour is gone, having surrendered to a slightly receding hairline.

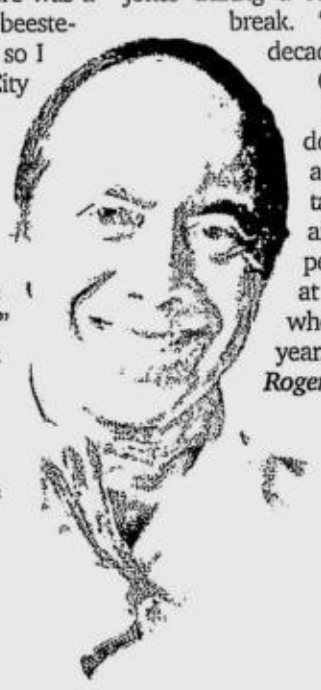
Anka is also still writing songs, still recording and touring, and still occasionally discovering the latest new thing. When urban folk music had a renaissance in the 1970s, he found John Prine and Steve Goodman in Chicago. When pop crooners came back into style earlier this decade, he discovered fellow Canadian Michael Buble and helped produce his first album.

But Anka is especially proud that, no matter what the current trend, he has placed a Billboard Top 50 hit on the charts in every decade of his career.

"We'll talk again in 2010," he jokes during a recording studio break. "I've got one decade left."

Or maybe two.

"Oh, I'll slow down a little," he adds. "But to totally retire? It ain't gonna happen. I'm too good at what I do, whereas I wasn't years ago." *John Rogers, AP*



PAUL Anka wrote "My Way" for Frank Sinatra.

Hail, Queen Cate—again

LOS ANGELES—IT SEEMS no iconic figure is beyond Cate Blanchett, who shot to stardom as Queen Elizabeth I, won an Academy Award as Katharine Hepburn and enchanted audiences as the mythic elf Galadriel in "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy.

In "Elizabeth: The Golden Age," which opened last week in the United States, Blanchett reprises her role as the long-reigning queen during her epic struggle to protect England amid a holy war with Spain. A month after "The Golden Age" comes "I'm Not There," with Blanchett one of six actors embodying an icon of modern times—Bob Dylan. Blanchett plays an incarnation of the musician during the Dylan-goes-electric uproar in the mid-1960s, when fans of his early acoustic sound renounced him for plugging in.

A certain fearlessness is needed to take on figures as familiar as Hepburn and Dylan, a ruler as illustrious as Elizabeth or a character as beloved as Galadriel, or to jump into a rabidly awaited sequel such as her current project, "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull."

Choosing roles

While it's taken some convincing by filmmakers for Blanchett to agree to some parts, she said her choices generally come from the gut.

"People say, 'How do you choose a role?' In the end, I think you really decide in about two and a half seconds," Blanchett, 38, said during an interview at a Los Angeles theater before a question-and-answer session with an audience catching an advance screening of "The Golden Age."

"It's a purely instinctual response. And then you spend the rest of your time trying to rationalize your way into it or out of it. Sometimes that takes a couple of weeks and sometimes it takes 10 years, like 'Elizabeth.'"

When "Elizabeth" premiered in 1998, Blanchett had only a few television and screen credits and was little-known outside her native Australia, where she trained in theater and had become an acclaimed stage performer.

Oscar nod

An irreverent glimpse of the early, uncertain days of a woman whom history has painted as a steely monarch, "Elizabeth" earned Blanchett a Best Actress Oscar nomination.

A Supporting Actress win followed for her turn as Hepburn in 2004's "The Aviator," and Blanchett received a third nomination for last year's "Notes on a Scandal," in which she co-starred with Judi Dench—who won an Oscar for playing Queen Elizabeth in "Shakespeare in Love" the same year "Elizabeth" came out.

Though actresses as esteemed as Bette Davis and Glenda Jackson both had played Elizabeth two times, Blanchett was hesitant to return to the role at first. In fact, she had reservations about playing the part the first time around.

Blanchett recalled: "My initial feeling when the film came my way the first time—it was probably hubris, because I was completely unknown and should have been throwing myself at their feet—but I thought, well, Glenda Jackson's done this. What do I have to say about it?"

Playing Dylan was an easier sell when Blanchett met with "I'm Not There" director and co-writer Todd Haynes, who also cast Richard Gere, Christian Bale and Heath Ledger among the six actors portraying different sides of the enigmatic rocker.

The incarnations range from a 13-year-old black boy riding the rails under the name Woody Guthrie, an early idol of Dylan's, to Gere as the grizzled Billy the Kid in the Old West, representing Dylan's period as a recluse in Woodstock, New York.

> Brad Pitt says of her: "She's mesmerizing. I don't know why. It's beyond my understanding."

Haynes "wanted to talk to me before I read the script, which was actually really wise, because the script was verging on impenetrable," Blanchett said. "Because it was a filmmaker script, all the pieces of the puzzle were in Todd's mind. I think the title of the section I was in was 'Electric Star Wreaks Havoc on His European Tour in the Style of Fellini's "8½."' When somebody offers you something as insane as that, it would be pure cowardice to say no."

Reunion

Along with the "Indiana Jones" adventure opposite Harrison Ford, Blanchett next year also reunites with Brad Pitt, her co-star in 2006's "Babel," for "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button."

Adapted from an F. Scott Fitzgerald story, the film casts Pitt as a man developing backward from old age to infancy, with Blanchett as the lover aging in the opposite direction.

Pitt was thrilled to work with Blanchett again so soon after "Babel."

"She is mesmerizing. I don't know why. It's beyond my understanding," Pitt said. "Why we all want to work with her is, she elevates the rest of us."

Since the time "Elizabeth" wrapped, director Shekhar Kapur had talked of doing a second film about the queen. Blanchett thought he was joking, but over the years, Kapur continually raised the prospects with her and co-star Geoffrey Rush, who reprises his role as Elizabeth's wily adviser.

Rush recalled Blanchett's reluctance and Kapur's salesmanship when the three met to discuss it a few years ago.

"Cate was saying, 'Oh, but you know, I've played that character. It just feels like repeating her. It's going to be kind of a dead-end for me as an actress,'" Rush said.

Kapur stressed the differences between the first film, when Elizabeth was more of a girlish figure thrust onto the throne, and the new story, set decades later as the queen faces a storm of political and personal crises, among them a spinster's realization that her chances for love and children were slipping away, Rush said.

Iconic figure

"A middle-aged woman confronting being established as the queen, caught up in a holy war between Catholic Spain and Protestant England. The armada. The New World opening up, the unknown spirit of adventure. The fact that she's now become this iconic monarch figure and can't really have a life and can't have children or family or anything," Rush said. "It's a beautifully written role, and Cate is absolutely astonishing in it."

"The Golden Age" co-stars Samantha Morton as Elizabeth's scheming cousin, Mary, Queen of Scots, and Clive Owen as Sir Walter Raleigh, the explorer who sparks the queen's romantic longing.

Raleigh also evokes longing for travel and adventure in a queen who, for all her worldliness, never left England.

Tight secrecy

"To have someone walk into court who's literally gone to the edges of the known world. How incredible and expansive must that have been for her, her sense of poetry and the possibility of what life could be," Blanchett said. "It was interesting, I found, to play a vicariousness in the relationship with Raleigh, rather than simply making it, here comes Clive Owen, isn't he handsome? But to actually sort of say, 'I'd like to *be* him.' I've certainly had those experiences. I was talking today about watching the 'Indiana Jones' films. My experience was as a young girl, I wanted to *be* Indiana Jones and have those adventures."

Director Steven Spielberg and producer George Lucas are maintaining tight secrecy, so Blanchett cannot offer details about her role in the fourth "Indiana Jones" flick. But she is getting to live some of Indy's adventures.

"Steven is saying he makes it my mission everyday to give me five butch things to do. He's trying to butch me up," Blanchett said. "He's saying he's going to cast me in a film where I'm continually in a harness with five machine guns." *David Germain, AP*

Getting the facts straight

From Felice Amarillo (friendly.voice@yahoo.com), Bel-Air Makati:

Why does your writer Pocholo Concepcion sound judgmental? Look at how he commented on Josh Groban's attire [at an MTV function]. Please get your facts straight. Or don't forget to mention that it is just your opinion. Also, Josh has only three albums, not five.

***

We wonder which part of the story sounded judgmental to you.

Pocholo Concepcion merely described what Josh Groban was wearing during that affair. The truth was, the writer, in his own words, "loved the outfit" and saw it as an expression of the singer's "easygoing personality" and "his desire to reach out to those who may think his music is elitist."

The exact words that came out in the story:

"At the inauguration party, the invited guests came dressed in suits and formal attire. Groban turned up casually garbed in a striped T-shirt, blue jeans, black denim jacket and low-cut Converse sneakers. He was also unshaven.

"The look seemed to reflect Groban's desire to shatter any resistance that people, especially those unfamiliar to his music, may still harbor against it."

2) You also corrected the writer about the number of albums Groban had recorded, insisting there were only "three, not five." Three studio albums, yes; you missed two live albums.

All in all, he has released: "Josh Groban" (2001), "Josh Groban In Concert" (CD/DVD, 2002), "Closer" (available with DVD, 2003),

"Live at the Greek" (CD/DVD, 2004), and "Awake," (available with DVD, 2006).

Hope this settles everything.

Thank you for keeping us on our toes.

FEEDBACK